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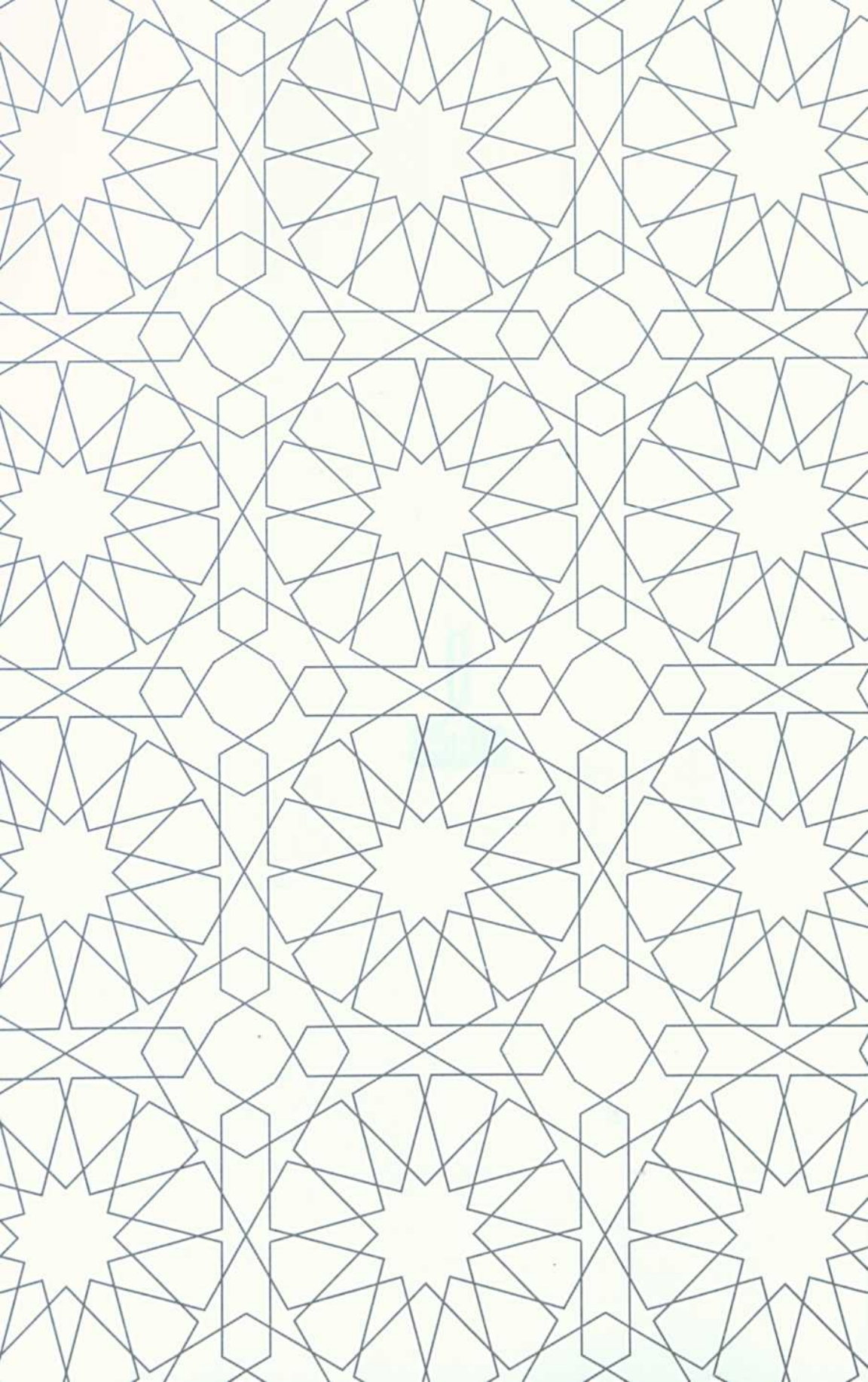
Qadi Registers in Bulgaria

A STUDY ON OTTOMAN COURT REGISTERS
PRESERVED AT THE ST ST CYRIL AND METHODIUS
NATIONAL LIBRARY

Prof. Recep Çiğdem









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İstanbul 2015



OIC | Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
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QADI REGISTERS IN BULGARIA

A STUDY ON OTTOMAN COURT REGISTERS PRESERVED AT THE ST ST CYRIL AND
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ISBN 978-92-9063-280-1

CATALOGUING IN PUBLICATION DATA

Qadi Registers in Bulgaria. A Study on Ottoman Court Registers Preserved at the St St Cyril and Methodius National Library / prepared by Recep Çiğdem; edited by Halit Eren; prepared for publication by Sadık Ünay. - İstanbul: Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, 2015.

420 p.: facsim.; 30 cm. - (Silsila sidjillat al-mahakim al-shariyya; no. 7)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Bibliography: p. 403-414.

ISBN 978-92-9063-280-1

1. Courts, Islamic--Bulgaria--History. 2. Court records--Bulgaria--Sources. I. Çiğdem, Recep. II. Eren, Halit. III. Ünay, Sadık. IV. Series.

347.013--dc22

EDITOR | Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren

PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION BY | Assoc. Prof. Sadık Ünay

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PRINTING AND BINDING | Karist Baskı Çözümleri

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Preface

Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren
Director General, IRCICA

As the cultural subsidiary of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) attaches great importance to archival studies that shed light on the social, economic and cultural legacies of Muslim societies. In this context, especially collections composed of decisions of Shari'a law courts are particularly important as they provide the researchers with crucial insights concerning the legal system and social norms in a certain historical period. Therefore, on the occasion of the publication of this crucial book, I would like to thank to Prof. Recep Çiğdem for his intense efforts to analyze the records of the Ottoman Shari'a law courts preserved at the St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Libraries in the Republic of Bulgaria. There is no doubt whatsoever that the meticulous work produced by Prof. Çiğdem will contribute to a thorough understanding of the Shari'a courts and the appointment procedure of the qadis (judges) and the naibs (deputy judges) between the 17th and the 20th centuries.

In the introduction to the study, important issues are highlighted indicating that the Ottoman courts examined a variety of cases and the procedures for the appointment of the qadis and naibs changed over time. The qadis were appointed by the qadiaskers/military judges upon the approval of their petition by the Sultan up until the 19th century. From the 19th century onwards, their appointment decrees were issued by the Sheikh al-Islams. Similarly, the naibs were appointed by the serving qadis themselves until the 19th century and from then onwards, approval of the Sheikh al-Islams were sought for their appointment. Some of the individuals from the muderris community in the madrasas and the muftis also served in the judiciary.

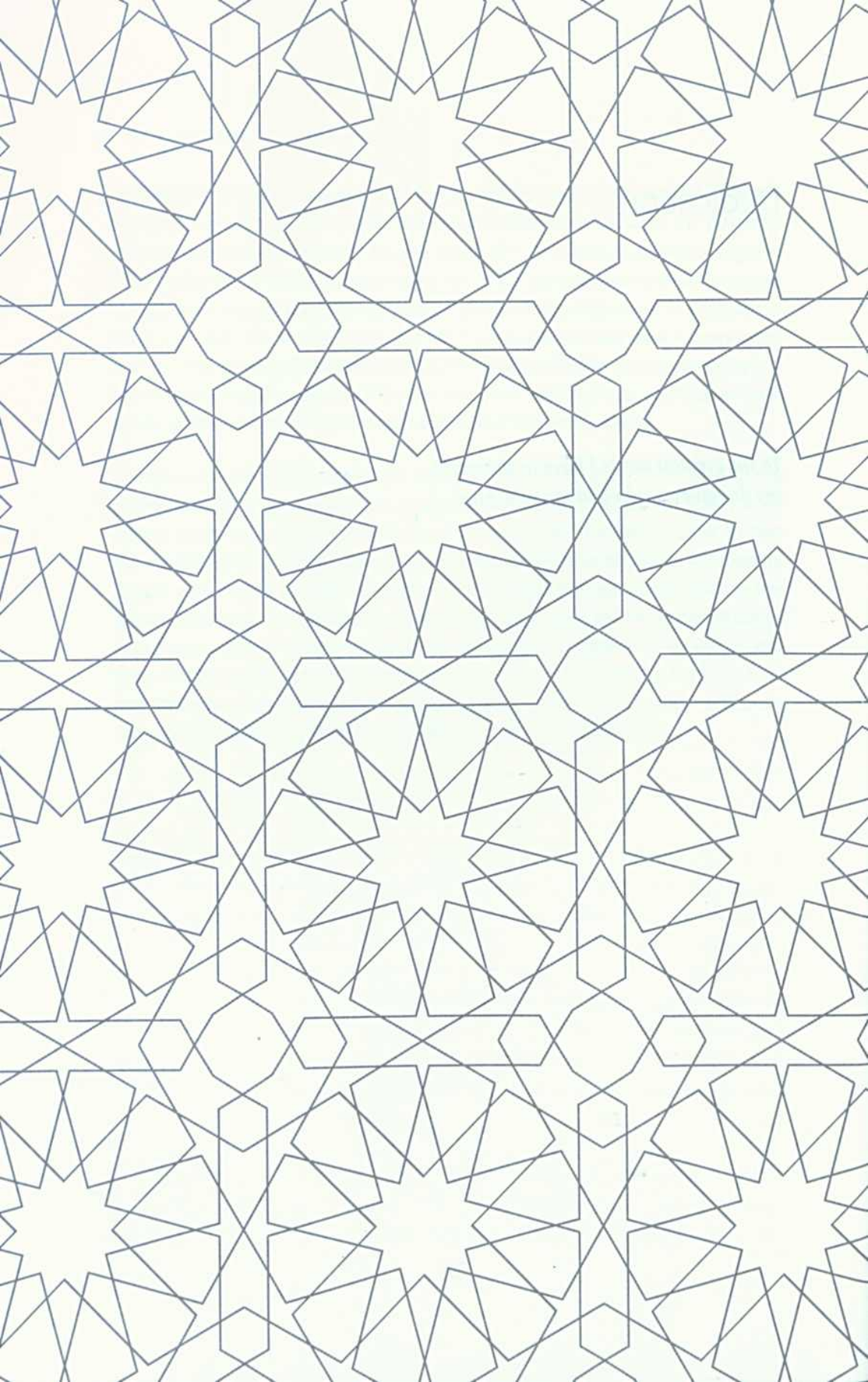
The second chapter of the study is attributed to the Shari'a courts in the independence period of Bulgaria, specifically between 1878-1945. They are studied in the light of the regulations issued by the Bulgarian State and agreements between Bulgaria and

the Ottoman Empire. It is to be noted that temporary regulations issued in 1880 and 1895 by the Bulgarian Principality, the Istanbul Agreement between the Bulgarian government and the Ottoman Empire dated 1913, as well as regulations issued in 1919 by the independent Bulgarian state played a major role in the restructuring and the administration of the minority shari'a courts. With the enactment of a regulation on 2 July 1880, the Shari'a courts lost their independence and were incorporated into the Directorate of Mufti and the muftis were entitled to adjudicate for only a limited part of legal problems of Muslims. Between 1880 and their abolition in 1945, family quarrels constituted the major workload of the Shari'a courts.

The third chapter, which constitutes the main part of the study, is devoted to the examination of individual registers. A total of 191 registers held in the library were closely scrutinized and documents for each case were scanned in order to find out the details of the cases. Moreover, appointment decrees of judges and deputy judges were closely studied. Research on other significant documents such as the appointment and the dismissal decrees of the muftis were left for further studies. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Prof. Recep Çiğdem for his efforts and hope that the publication of Ottoman Shari'a law courts preserved at the St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Libraries will be a great service to the global academic community specializing in the study of Islamic history and civilization.

Dedication

*To the greatest assets I have in the world,
my daughter, Leyla and my son, Alim.*



Foreword

Based on the records of the Ottoman Shari'a law courts preserved at the St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Libraries of the Republic of Bulgaria, this is a descriptive study of the registers that contribute to a thorough understanding of the Shari'a courts and the appointment procedure of the qadis (judges) and the naibs (deputy judges) between the 17th and the 20th centuries.

In the introduction to the study, important issues are highlighted indicating that the Ottoman courts examined a variety of cases and the procedures for the appointment of the qadis and naibs changed over time. The qadis were appointed by the qadiaskers/military judges upon the approval of their petition by the Sultan up until the 19th century. From the 19th century onwards, their appointment decrees were issued by the Sheikh al-Islams. Similarly, the naibs were appointed by the serving qadis themselves until the 19th century and from then onwards, approval of the Sheikh al-Islams were sought for their appointment. Some of the individuals from the muderris community in the madrasas and the muftis also served in the judiciary.

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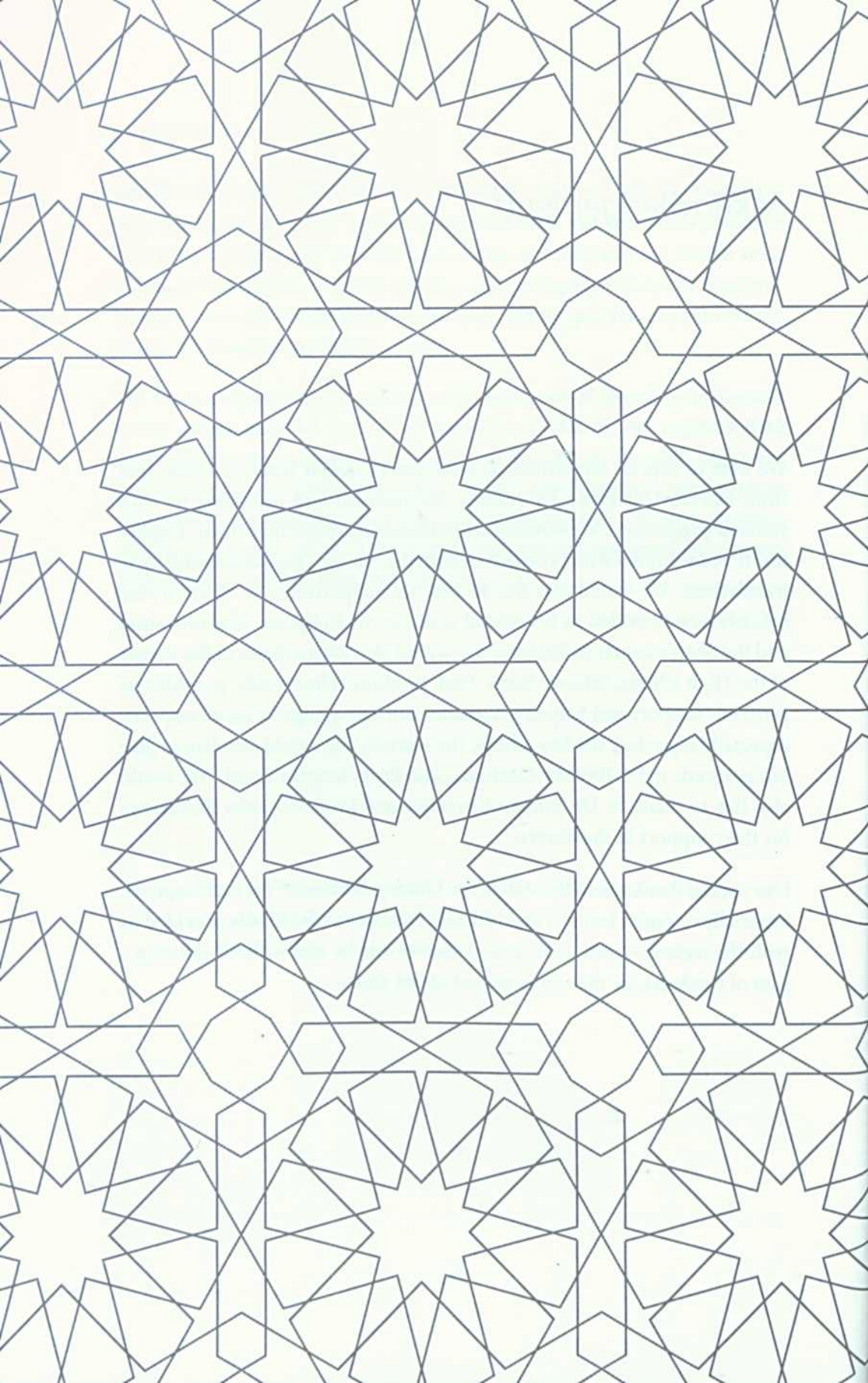
and the administration of the minority shari'a courts. With the enactment of a regulation on 2 July 1880, the Shari'a courts lost their independence and were incorporated into the Directorate of Mufti and the muftis were entitled to adjudicate for only a limited part of legal problems of Muslims. Between 1880 and their abolition in 1945, family quarrels constituted the major workload of the Shari'a courts.

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Acknowledgements

We wish to express our thanks to Associate Professor İbrahim Hakkı İnal from Harran University for reading the material and providing us with valuable suggestions. We would also like to record our gratitude to the Deputy Mufti Vedat Ahmet who provided us with the relevant regulations and their translations. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank to the officials who provided us his special work on the Religious administration and the Shari'a courts in Bulgaria. We would also like to thank to the Rector of the High Islamic School, Assos. Prof. İbrahim Yalimov who provided us generous support and helped to enhance our knowledge in many respects, especially regarding the law school, the nuvvab. We would also like to give our gratitude to Dr. İbrahim Canbazov and Prof. İbrahim Tatarlı. We would also like to thank to Dr. Rumen Kovachev and Prof. Stoyanka Kenderova for their support in the library.

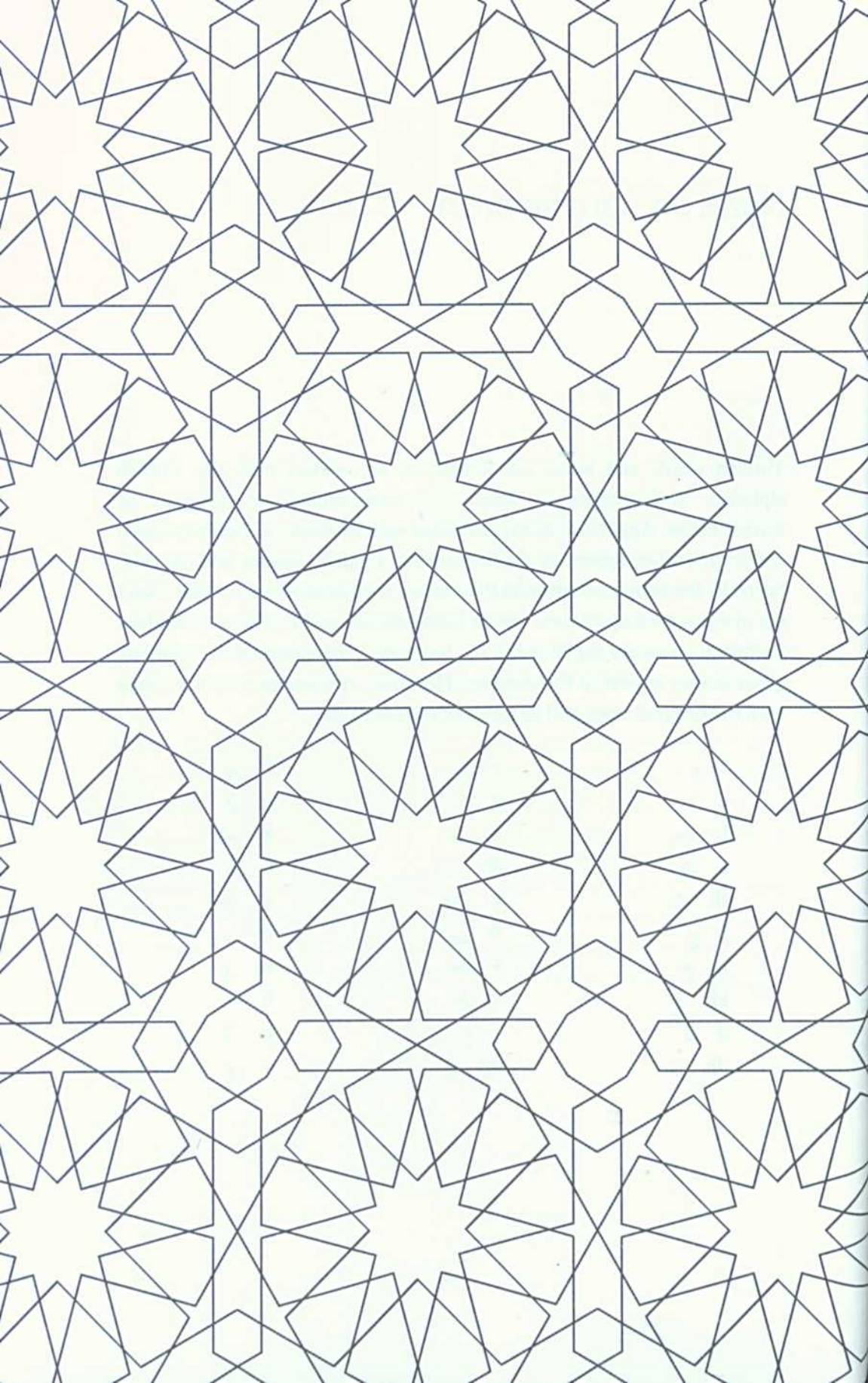
Our special thanks go to the staff of the Library 'Methodiy' for their support, especially to Zorka Ivanova and Mihaela Popetsova who kindly provided us with the registers from their special shelves one by one without showing a sign of tiredness for the whole period of our study.



Notes on Transliteration

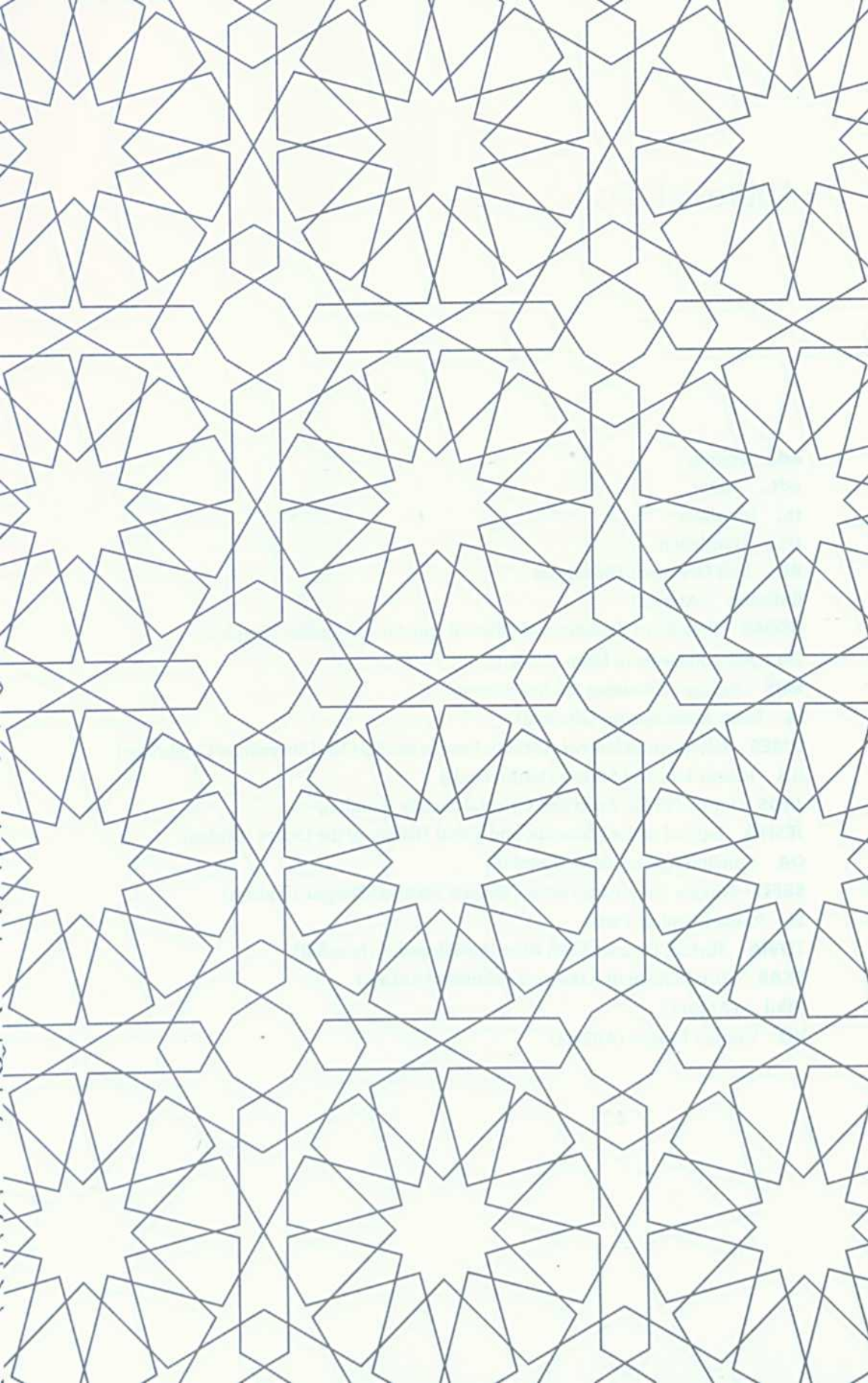
Turkish words and terms are written in accordance with the Turkish alphabet. Arabic terms and lexicon are transliterated according to the format below. Anglicised terms and titles such as *Sheikh al-Islam* and *qadi* are given as they appear in the literature in English. Names and the titles borne by the people are given in their forms used in modern Turkish. Dates are given according to their use in both Muslim and Christian calendars. Technical terms are explained in the footnotes. The names of the cities are given as they appear in the registers. However, their modern names, along with the original ones, will be given in the appendix.

' ء	r ر	f ف
a ا	z ز	q ق
b ب	s س	k ك
t ت	sh ش	l ل
th ث	s ص	m م
j ج	d ض	n ن
h ح	t ط	w و
kh خ	z ظ	h ه
d د	' ع	la لا
dh ذ	gh غ	y ی



Abbreviations

- ed.,** edition
edt., editor
tr., translator
trs., translation
AO Acta Orientalia (Budapest)
Belleten (Ankara)
BSOAS Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies (London)
El2 Encyclopaedia of Islam (Leiden)
HUS Harvard Ukrainian Studies (Boston)
İA İslam Ansiklopedisi (İstanbul)
IJMES International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies (The University of Cambridge)
ILS Islamic Law and Society (Netherlands)
JAOS Journal of the American Oriental Society (London)
JESHO Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient (Leiden)
OA Osmanlı Araştırmaları (İstanbul)
SBFD Ankara Üniversitesi Siyasal Bilgiler Fakültesi Dergisi (Ankara)
SI Studia Islamica (Paris)
TDVİA Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslam Ansiklopedisi (İstanbul)
TKAE Türk Kültürünü Araştırma Enstitüsü (Ankara)
Ülkü (Ankara)
VD Vakıflar Dergisi (Ankara)



Chapter 1

Introduction

The purpose of this study is to analyze the Ottoman law court registers stored at the St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Librarian of Bulgaria. The current conditions of the records will be examined in detail sheet by sheet. The study also aims to unravel the contents of each register in order to give the prospective researchers a general outlook of the information contained in the registers and facilitate future research. Moreover, the work will highlight the procedures for the appointment of the qadis (judges) and the naibs (deputy judges),¹ questioning whether or not they changed over time. For this purpose, the appointment decrees which found their way to the registers along with secondary sources will be examined. The language, lexicon and titles used in the decrees will also be evaluated.

The Shari'a courts in the independence period of Bulgaria will be shortly examined. Their scope of power and the range of legal matters they dealt with will be closely scrutinized. Thus, the regulations enacted by the Bulgarian state will be closely investigated. Since this is not a study of the cases recorded in the registers, the readers should not expect either full description of the cases or their legal analysis as such. Those researchers interested in individual cases are strongly urged to study the relevant registers in detail.

¹ Naib refers to the judge who is appointed by the qadi as his substitute. The term 'niyâbet' corresponds to the substitution/deputyship or to the province in which the qadi or the naib is expected to serve. Uzunçarşılı, İ. H. *Osmanlı Devletinin İlmiye Teşkilatı*, (Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu 1988), p. 117; Bayerle, G. *Pashas, Begs, and Efendis: A Historical Dictionary of Titles and Terms in the Ottoman Empire*, (İstanbul: The Isis Press, 1997), p. 117; Şentop, M., *Osmanlı Yargı Sistemi ve Provinceskerlik*, (İstanbul: Klasik Yayınları, 2005), p. 86, 100; İpşirli, M., 'Naib (Osmanlılar'da)', *TDVİA*, vol. 32, pp. 312-313; Pakalın, M. Z. *Osmanlı Tarih Deyimleri ve Terimleri Sözlüğü*, (İstanbul: Maarif Basımevi, 1954), vol. 2, pp. 644-645.

1.1 Description of Sources

A total of 191 registers have been scanned for the study, the earliest dating 957/1550 and the latest bearing the date of 1316/1899. The sheets of the registers range from 2² to 289³ and the entries from 2⁴ to 951.⁵ Although the content of the registers vary depending on the cases brought to the attention of the courts and the correspondences, almost all registers have *Huccet*, *İlam*, *Ma'ruz*, *Hatt-ı Humayun* and *Murasala*. The registers also contain additional documents.

Huccet refers to the notary documents recording legal acts and agreements concluded by the parties, consisting of the declaration of one party and the confirmation of the other.⁶ *İlam* is a document regarding proper lawsuits, containing the decision of the judge.⁷ *Ma'ruz* is defined as “a series of documents which are a kind of petition concerning various legal matters, either submitted by officials to the qadi or by the qadi to the executive authorities”.⁸ *Hatt-ı Humayun* corresponds to the firmans issued by the approval of the Sultan and his cipher is affixed.⁹ *Murasala* refers to the correspondence of the qadi with the officials of the Empire.¹⁰ The entries were mainly written in the script of *ta'liq* (a Persian style of writing) and *riq'a* (a cursive style of writing).¹¹ The style of writing remained the

2 S1; Sheet 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B. This (S1) indicates the catalogue/shelf number of the register labelled by the Library staff. The following 'Sheet 1A' shows the sheet number of the document in the register.

3 R33.

4 S311/3.

5 R33.

6 For more see Cigdem, R. *The Register of the Law Court of İstanbul 1612-1613; A Legal Analysis*, Unpublished PhD Thesis, (The University of Manchester, 2001), p. 45.

7 Akgündüz, A. et al. *Şer'iyye Sicilleri*, (İstanbul: Türk Dünyası Araştırmaları Vakfı, 1998), vol. 1, p. 29; Bayındır, A. *İslam Muhakeme Hukuku (Osmanlı Devri Uygulaması)*, (İstanbul: İslami İlimler Araştırma Vakfı, 1980), p. 29; Cigdem, *The Register of the Law Court of İstanbul 1612-1613*, p. 47.

8 Çiçek, K. *Zimmis (Non-Muslims) of Cyprus in the Sharia Court: 1110/39 A.H. /1698-1726 A.D.* Unpublished PhD Thesis, (The University of Birmingham, 1992), p. 29; Bayındır, *Muhakeme Hukuku*, p. 18; Çiğdem, *The Register of the Law Court of İstanbul 1612-1613*, p. 50.

9 Bayerle, *Pashas*, p. 78; Sertoğlu, M. *Resimli Osmanlı Tarihi Ansiklopedisi*, (İstanbul: İstanbul Matbaası, 1958).

10 Çiçek, *Zimmis*, p. 29; Cigdem, *The Register of the Law Court of İstanbul 1612-1613*, p. 50.

11 Gökbilgin, T. M. *Osmanlı İmparatorluğu Medeniyet Tarihi Çerçevesinde Osmanlı Paleografya ve Diplomatik İlmî*, (İstanbul: Edebiyat Fakültesi Basımevi, 1979), pp. 41, 46.

same despite the rotation of the judges. The qadis or the naibs generally affixed their signature and stamp to the last sheet of the register or to the sheet on which they completed their service period.

1.2 Appointment of the Qadis and Naibs and the Income of the Law Courts

Before the procedure of appointments, it is worth mentioning that in Hanafi school of law, which constituted the basis of the official legal discourse of the Ottoman Empire, a qadi ought to have the following qualifications to serve as a judge:

- a. Being Muslim,¹²
- b. Freedom,
- c. A sound mind,
- d. Maturity,
- e. *Ijtihad* (expenditure of effort in order to know the rules of the Law),¹³
- f. The quality of *'adl* (not to commit grave sins and not to insist on small ones),¹⁴
- g. Having no conviction for slander (*qadhf*).¹⁵

A woman may, in theory, qualify to be a qadi, but she cannot administer justice in *hadd* (fixed punishments)¹⁶ and *qisas* (retaliation) cases.¹⁷ Yet it

¹² Non-Muslims may serve as a judge in the cases related to the non-Muslims. 'Ala ud-Din al-Haskafi, Muhammed b. Ali, *Badr al-Muntaqa fi Sharh al-Multaqa* in the margins of *Majma' al-Anhur fi Sharh al-Multaqa al-Abhur*, (Istanbul: Matba'a Amira, 1316), p. 151.

¹³ For further discussion, see Karaman, H. *İslam Hukukunda İctihad*, (Istanbul: Ensar Neşriyat, 2010); Hallaq, W. B., "On the Origins of the Controversy about the Existence of Mujtahids and the Gate of Ijtihad", *SI*, Vol. 63 (1986), pp. 129-141.

¹⁴ Jurjani, Abu Hasan Sayyid al-Sharif, Ali b. Muhammed, *al-Ta'rifat*, (Beirut: Dar al-Kutub al-'Ilmiyya, 1983), p. 147; Schacht, J. *An Introduction to Islamic Law*, (Oxford: The Clarendon Press 1964), p. 125.

¹⁵ Ibn Humam, Kamal al-Din, *Fath al-Qadir*, (Egypt: Matba'a Mustafa al-Halabi, 1970), vol. 7, p. 252.

¹⁶ *Hadd* refers to the five fixed punishments which are *zina* (adultery, fornication), false accusation of unlawful intercourse, theft, drinking wine, and highway robbery. al-Marghinani, Burhan al-Din, *al-Hidaya*, (Egypt: Matba'a Mustafa al-Halabi, 1971); vol. 2, pp.96-135; Halabi, Ibrahim, *Multaqa al-Abhur*, (Istanbul: Güryay Matbaası, 1981), pp. 191-206.

¹⁷ According to Ibn Jarir al-Tabari (d.315/928), a woman may execute the duties of a judge in any case without limitation. al-Mawardi, Abu al-Hasan, *al-Ahkam al-Sultaniyya*, (Beirut: Dar al-Kutub al-'Ilmiyya, 1973), p. 83; Marghinani, *Hidaya*, vol. 3, p. 107.

needs to be stated that these qualifications were not strictly observed.¹⁸

1.2.1 Appointment of Qadis

Before presenting the procedures of appointment, it might be helpful to enumerate the judicial posts in the Ottoman Empire. They were divided into two categories, namely *Mevleviyet* and the province/province. *Mevleviyet* referred to major qadi posts with daily allowances of 300-500 akçes. These were: '1-İstanbul, 2-Haramayn (Mecca and Medina), 3-Five cities of *Mevleviyet*: Edirne, Bursa, Damascus, Egypt and Plovdiv, 4-*Mahreç Mevleviyet* (this was the highest level at which a muderris started his judicial career): Jerusalem, Aleppo, Tırhala, Yenişehir, Galata, İzmir, Thessaloniki, Eyüp, Üsküdar, Sofia, Crete, Trabzon, 5-*Devriye Mevleviyet* (with 300 akçes daily): Adana, Antioach, Antep, Baghdad, Beirut, Belgrade, Bosnia, Çankırı, Diyarbakir, Erzurum, Konya, Kütahya, Maraş, Ruse, Sivas, Trablusgarb and Van. Provincial posts refer to the judicial posts with daily allowances of 45-150 akçes. Rumeli provincial posts were (from the bottom up): Çanad, Chalabi, Eğri, İnebahtı, Salise, Saniye, Karib-i ula, Rütbe-i Ula. Anatolia provincial posts were İbtida, Tasia, Samine, Sabia, Sadise, Hamise, Rabia, Salise, Saniye and Sitte-i Anadolu. Egypt provincial posts were Sadise, Hamise, Rabia, Salise and Musul. It is to be noted that some qadis were given the title of İstanbul, Anatolia or Rumili *Mevleviyet* although they did not serve in such capacity.¹⁹

When it comes to the appointment procedure of the qadis in the Ottoman Empire, historians have different views. Uzunçarşılı states that until the 16th century, the Grand Vizier or the military judge²⁰ proposed

¹⁸ Ibn Humam (d.861/1456) quotes Ghazali (d.505/1111) that "ijtihad is not a condition for appointment as a judge, because there is no *mujtahid* in our time, and the judgement of anyone appointed by a powerful Sultan is valid even if he was an ignorant and an unjust man". Ibn Humam, *Fath al-Qadir*, vol. 7, p. 253.

¹⁹ Ortaylı, I., 'Kadı (Osmanlı Devletinde Kadı)', *TDVİA*, vol. 24. pp. 69-73; Özel, T., 'Osmanlıda Kadılık Müessesesi', *Yeni Ümit*, Sayı: 35 (1997), (http://www.yeniumit.com.tr/yazdir.php?konu_id=1066), accessed on 13.04.2010; Bayerle, *Pashas*, pp. 108-9; Şentop, *Osmanlı Yargı Sistemi*, pp.90-94. See also Altundağ, Ş. 'Osmanlılarda Kadıların Vazife ve Selahiyetleri', *VI. Türk Tarih Kongresi*, (Ankara, 1967).

²⁰ This refers to the supreme judge of the Ottoman Empire. The first military judge was appointed by Murad I (1362-1389) in 1363. The position was divided into two in 1481 and two military judges

the appointment of the judges to the Porte. From the second half of the 16th century, higher ranking qadis were proposed by the Sheikh al-Islams. In his view, appointments for the judicial posts in the provinces were proposed by military judges, and once the Sultan gave his approval, the military judge informed the candidate of his appointment.²¹ Akgündüz asserts that between the 15th century and the middle of the 16th century, qadis were appointed by military judges. From the second half of the 16th century, *Mevleviyet* qadis were appointed by the Sheikh al-Islams and other qadis were appointed by military judges.²² He does not mention the role of the Sultan or the Grand Vizier. Ortaylı maintains that the qadis were appointed via a *berât*²³ of the Sultan.²⁴ Özel underlines that in the 14th and 15th centuries, the qadis were appointed in the meetings of the Divan-ı Humayun (Imperial Council) with the approval of the Sultan upon the presentation (*arz*) of the military judge. From the time of Fatih the Conqueror (1444-1446, 1451-1481) the presentation was submitted to the Grand Vizier and upon his approval, the qadi was appointed.²⁵ Feyzioğlu quotes a firman which was sent to the military judge on 21.04.1716 (28 Rabi al-Akhir 1128), regarding the appointment of the qadis and naibs. According to this firman, the candidates needed to pass an exam held by the military judge; the names of the candidates who passed the exam were

were named, one for Rumeli and one for Anatolia. They had the administration of certain religious and judicial posts. A significant portion of the incomes of the military judges were from the division of inheritance of the army (*askeri*). İpşirli states that this caused them to have higher incomes than the sheikh al-Islams. Nagy, K. G., 'Kadiaskar' *EP*, vol. 4, pp.375-376; İpşirli, M. 'Provincesker', *TDVİA*, vol. 25, pp. 141-142; İpşirli, M. 'Osmanlı Devletinde Provinceskerlik (XVII. Yüzyıla kadar,)', <http://tarihvedenediyet.org/e-kutuphane/makaleler/?page=2>, accessed on 13.04.2010; Akgündüz, A. *Osmanlı Kanunnameleri ve Hukuki Tahlilleri*, (İstanbul: Fey Vakfı, 1990), vol. 1, pp.226, 320; Bayerle, *Pashas*, pp. 95-96.

21 Uzunçarşılı, *İlmiye Teşkilatı*, pp. 87, 90. For more, see Jennings, R. C. "Qadi, Court, and Legal Procedure in 17th Century Ottoman Kayseri", *SI*, vol. 48 (1978), pp. 87, 94, 127; Ebul'ula Mardin, 'Kadı', *İA*, (İstanbul 1977), vol. 6, pp. 42-45; For the structure of the learned hierarchy and the office of müfti and the biography of its holders in 15th and 16th centuries, see Repp, R. C. *The Müfti of İstanbul: A Study in the Development of the Ottoman Hierarchy*, (London: Ithaca Press, 1986).

22 Akgündüz, *Kanunnameler*, vol. 1, pp. 231, 320-324.

23 This refers to 'an imperial deed of grant, a writ for an appointment to an office'. Bayerle, *Pashas*, p. 21.

24 Ortaylı, 'Kadı', *TDVİA*, vol. 24. p. 70.

25 Özel, 'Osmanlıda Kadılık', (http://www.yeniumit.com.tr/yazdir.php?konu_id=1066), accessed on 14.04.2010.

to be sent to the Sheikh al-Islam and after his approval, a firman was to be obtained. Feyzioğlu mentions another firman dated 12.12.1838 (25 Ramadhan 1254), requiring the approval of the Sheikh al-Islam and the government and the Sultan for the appointment.²⁶

A thorough examination of the registers indicates that the appointment procedure of the qadis varied over time. However, the procedure generally started with the petition of a candidate via military judge to the Porte and afterwards a decree was issued. Some documents clearly mention that the decree was signed by the Sultan. For instance, a document reads: 'A decree has been issued by his exalted and magnificent kindness, the Padişah.' Another document reads as: 'The province of Sofia was granted [to you] by his kindness, the exalted Padişah'.²⁷ Once the military judge received his approval, he issued a decree/inhâ²⁸ informing the qadi of his appointment.

When it comes to the 19th century, the Sheikh al-Islam had the authority to select the prospective judges. The authority of the military judges also continued as understood from the following statement:²⁹ 'Zât-ı Hazret-i Fetvâ Penâhi'nin intihâb ve tercih buyurduklarına ve nazarât-i âmmemize binâen cenâbı şerîfinize ihâlâ ve tefvîz olunmuştur/[the judiciary post] has been transferred and handed over to your majesty on the grounds of preference and selection command of his Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi (Sheikh al-Islam), and on the basis of our [military judges'] general authority'.

With the enactment of a new regulation called *Hükkam-ı Şer'iyye*

²⁶ Feyzioğlu, H. S. & Kılıç, S., 'Tanzimat Arifesinde Kadılık- Naiplik Kurumu', <http://dergiler.ankara.edu.tr/dergiler/18/35/284.pdf>, accessed on 14.04.2010. See also, Çadırcı, M. 'Tanzimat'ın İlanı Sıralarında Osmanlı İmparatorluğu'nda Kadılık Kurumu ve 1838 Tarihli Tarik-i İlmiyye Dair Ceza Kanunnamesi', *Ankara Üniversitesi Dil Tarih-Coğrafya Fakültesi Tarih Araştırmaları Dergisi*, vol. XIV, (1983).

²⁷ S 311/1, Sheet 1B/2. See also R21, Sheet 171A/1.

²⁸ Uzunçarşılı and Şentop called the letter issued by the military judge 'buyruldu/commended'. Although we see the word 'buyruldu' being used in the decrees issued by the Sultan or the Grand Vizier, we do not see it being employed in the letters issued by the military judge. Rather they employed the term 'inhâ' in their letters. This term was also used by the qadis in the appointment of their substitutes. *Buyruldu* refers to the edicts issued by the high dignitaries. Whereas *inhâ* signifies either correspondence or 'official memorandum to a superior department recommending the appointment or promotion of an official', Uzunçarşılı, *İlmiye Teşkilatı*, p. 90; Şentop, *Yargı sistemi*, p. 94; Bayerle, *Pashas*, p. 25, *New Redhouse Turkish-English Dictionary*, (İstanbul: Redhouse Yayınevi, 1994), p. 538.

²⁹ R26, Sheet 100B/1.

Nizamnamesi (Regulation Regarding the *Shari'a* Judges) in 1290/1873,³⁰ the qadis were selected by a special commission called *Meclis-i İntihab-ı Hükkam* (Council of Selection of the Judges). Upon the approval of the Sheikh al-Islam, the military judge issued the decree/*buyruldu*. We can see this hierarchy in the following document: '*Meclis-i intihâb-ı hukkâm-ı şer'iden vâki olan ifade üzerine zât-ı sâmî Hazret-i Fetvâ Penâhi'nin re'yi müşerreflerine ve nazarât-ı âmmemize binâen uhde-i behiyyenize ihâle ve tefvîz olunmuştur*/[the judiciary post] has been transferred and handed over to your brilliant responsibility on the ground of opinion of his illustrious Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi [which was based] upon a statement issued by the council of selection of the judges, and on the basis of our general authority.'³¹

A sample petition is given below:

Sheet 2B:³² Shawwal al-Mukarram 1155,

İbrahim Nakid, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed as of the end of the next month. His position has been given to well-wisher Hasan Effendi, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, he is from among the honourable and reverend judges, he has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Ruler of the world (*Cihandâri*). After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province], for the whole customary period as conferred in the past, *sadaka*³³ is commended (a decree has been issued).

A *buyruldu/inhâ* of the military judge follows the petition above as:

³⁰ Dustur, vol. I/2, pp. 721-5

³¹ S348, Sheet 56A/1.

³² S25A.

³³ This technically and legally refers to voluntary payments/charities for the sake of God. On the question of why such a term was used in the appointment decrees, it is presumably because the appointment was viewed as a kind of giving *sadaka*/charity to the poor, in this case the Sultan represented the rich while the judge represented the poor as they usually call themselves 'the poor'. It is also likely that this is a traditional term employed for the appointment of qadis without a special legal meaning. It is also possible that it was used in the meaning of *sâdik*, that is, faithful to the State and to the laws of the country. (Jurjani, *Ta'rifat*, p. 132; Sheikh Qasim Konewi, *Anis al-Fuqaha*, Ahmet b. Abd al-Razzaq (tahqiq), (Jidda: Dar al-Wafa, 1986), pp. 134, 256).

Sheet 29B/3:³⁴ His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana İbrahim Nakid Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Hacı Yusuf, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed after three months from the end of Sha‘ban al-Mu‘azzam of this year 1154/09.11.1741. His position has been given to you, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, you are from the honourable and reverend judges and you have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Ruler of the world. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari‘a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of the aforementioned year for only 12 months as conferred in the past, and that you complete your remaining eight months [customary] period in another province, and that you enforce the judgments of the shari‘a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

From the poor, Ahmet Selli Mirzazâde, Military judge of Rumili.³⁵

The following document makes it clear that the Sheikh al-Islam had the authority to appoint the qadis or to extend their service period:

Sheet 8B:³⁶His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana our naib Mehmet, the prosperous, ‘God is enough for us; and how excellent a guardian is He!’³⁷

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the Effendi has the honour in the exalted İstanbul (*astâne-i âliyye*) and presently has the post in the protected Vidin to whose humble responsibility, the administration [of the shari‘a affairs of Vidin] for the period of six months had been, as deputy judge, transferred, two [extra] months were [now] added [to his period of service] with the order of his Excellency, the Sheikh al-Islam, from the beginning of the month Jumad al-Awwal until the end of Jumad al-Akhira of this year 1229/18.06.1814. Since it is [two extra months] has been

³⁴ S₉.

³⁵ Rumelia/Rumili (the land of Rome) denotes the Balkans, in particular Thrace and Macedonia. Bayerle, *Pashas*, p. 128; İnalçık, H., *The Ottoman Empire: The Classical Age*, Itzkowitz, N., & Imber, C. (tr.), (New York: Aristide D. Caratzas, 1989).

³⁶ S_{311/10}.

³⁷ This is a quotation of the Qur‘an, *al-i Imran*, 3/173.

transferred and handed over, as deputy judge, to my humble responsibility, as in the past, I will take over [the shari'a affairs] in the aforesaid extended month Jumad al-Awwal. [You] take over [the shari'a affairs] as previously conferred [to you] in the remaining aforesaid month, Jumad al-Akhira, [that is] from the beginning of the month Jumad al-Akhira until the beginning of Recep al-Fard, and you enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the share which Allah, the most kind, prescribed. You should not deviate from the shari'a which requires respect. With cordial greetings.

The registers under examination also indicate that an exam was held in order to verify the capacity of the candidates.³⁸ The following two documents are illustrating this kind of examination:

1: Sheet 128A:³⁹ Safar al-Khayr 1115/June 1703,

The period of Abdullah, the judge of Vidin, is nearing to [the date of] dismissal. He will be deposed after five months from the end of the aforementioned month. After submission [of his petition] that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] until completing the customary period, his position has been conferred with daily 300 akçes⁴⁰ to well-wisher Mustafa whose scholarly capability became apparent after an examination, on the condition that he complies with the conditions and advises which were written in our letter.

2: Sheet 128A:⁴¹ His Excellency, Mustafa Effendi, the prosperous,

After pure greetings, it is an official memorandum that the period of Abdullah, the judge of Vidin, is nearing to [the date of] dismissal. He will be deposed after five months from the end of Safar al-Khayr of this year

³⁸ For more see, Özel, 'Osmanlıda Kadılık', http://www.yeniumit.com.tr/yazdir.php?konu_id=1066), accessed on 15.04.2010.

³⁹ S38.

⁴⁰ The standard Ottoman silver coin known as 'asper' in Europe. Bayerle, *Pashas*, p. 4.

⁴¹ S38.

1115/16.06.1703. His position has been conferred with daily 300 akçes to you, whose scholarly capability became apparent with an examination, and according to the wise and thoughtful statement 'Say: are those who know and those who do not equal?'.⁴² It is required that you do your best to enforce the judgments of the shari'a. After executing the judgements [of the shari'a], you should not demand a share for the things for which the charge is forbidden and you should not demand above the just price/adequate pay and above their [monetary] capacity for huccets and legal documents [drawn]. You should complete your customary period with full uprightness. With cordial greetings. [It was] written at the aforesaid date of the aforementioned year.

From the poor, Seyyid Mehmet Dede, Military Judge of Rumili:

It is to be noted that the graduates of the medreses were officially listed in the registries (*ruznamçe*)⁴³ held by the military judges in order that they would be granted posts in due course. As the documents below indicate, when the name of a candidate was not found in these registries, it was possible for him to bring witnesses to establish that he was on the list and that he is the next to be appointed as judge.

1: Sheet 2B:⁴⁴ Ramadan al-Mubarak 1144/February 1702,

Mehmet, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of the next month. His position has been given to well-wisher Mevlana Süleyman with 400 akçes daily, since it has been established by the information of the honourable judges that it was conferred to him at the council (divan) of the

⁴² Qu'ran, Zumar, 39/9.

⁴³ This refers to the registers kept by the military judges. The names of the graduates of the medreses were recorded to these registers and they were appointed as teacher or judge when their turn has come. This system was established by the Grand Mufti Ebu's-suud (952-82/1545-74). İpşirli, M. 'Provinceskerlik', <http://tarihvedenediyet.org/e-kutuphane/makaleler/?page=2>, accessed on 15.04.2010; Gündoğdu, İ., 'Osmanlı tarihi kaynaklarında provinceskerlik rûznâmçe defterleri ve önemi' *Uluslararası İnsan bilimleri dergisi*, vol. 6 No. 2 (2009) <http://www.insanbilimleri.com/ojs/index.php/uib/article/viewFile/940/434>; İnalçık, H., 'Provincesker Ruznamçe Defterine Göre Kadılık', <http://kutuphane.tbmm.gov.tr:8088/2007/200707683.pdf>, accessed on 16.04.2010.

⁴⁴ S42.

former military judge, it has been 48 months (*infisâl*) since he left his post in the province Eğriyüz, he is competent and deserves [the appointment], he is from the honourable and the reverend judges, he has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the respect of the Ruler of the world. After submission of his petition that as in the past, he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] with 400 akçes daily, from the beginning of Dhulqa'da of the aforesaid year until completing two years, *sadaka* is commended.

2: Sheet 2B:⁴⁵ His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Süleyman Effendi, the prosperous,

With the offering of pure greetings, it is an official memorandum that Mehmet, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of Shawwal al-Mukarram of this year 1144/25.04.1732. His position has been given to you, as in the past, with 400 akçes daily, since it has been established by the information of the honourable judges that it was conferred to you at the council of the former military judge, it has been 48 months since you left your post in the province Eğriyüz, you are competent and deserve [the appointment], you are from the honourable and the reverend judges, you have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the respect of the Ruler of the world. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Dhulqa'da of the aforesaid year until completing two years and that you enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants . With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Zeynelabidin, Military judge of Rumili.

In the following document, we see the title holder of a higher class *qada* being appointed to a lower class judicial post. Here, the holder of the first class title (İstanbul) was appointed as a qadi to the second class judicial post. This suggests that there was no caste system in the judiciary of the Ottoman Empire.

⁴⁵ S42.

Sheet 83B/2:⁴⁶ His Excellency, the measure of law, from the holders of the high rank of İstanbul, his Excellency Mevlana Ebu el-Hayr Effendi, may your success for the goodness endure,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the centre of the province Ruscuk have been transferred and handed over to your high virtuousness, on the ground of preference and selection command of his majesty Fetvâ Penâhi, and on the basis of our humble general authority, from the fifth of the month Ramadan al-Mubarak of this year [1]293/24.09.1876. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the aforementioned day, and that you make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and to mark and to write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, which require registration, and to divide and to distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. Please, my Effendi, you deserve a lot.

The poor, el-Hâc Mustafa Arap el-Huznî, Military judge of Rumili.

1.2.2 Appointment of Naibs

To begin with, Hanafi jurists entitle a qadi to appoint a naib (deputy) provided that he is authorised to do so by political authorities.⁴⁷ Our documents clearly show that the qadis were entitled to appoint naibs and they did so.⁴⁸ Some documents from the 19th century indicate that the qadi was to follow the selection of the Sheikh al-Islams.⁴⁹ However, it was usually the qadi who selected his naib and appointed him. Once the qadi has made

⁴⁶ R34.

⁴⁷ Marghinani, *Hidaya*, vol. 4, pp. 41-42.

⁴⁸ Şentop claims that after the selection of the qadi his naib, the military judge confirmed the appointment. Our documents imply that it was the qadi who selected and appointed his naib and no confirmation of the military judge was required. This is because, they were entitled to do so. The qadi asked permission to appoint a naib, in the case of his having no such authority as we see in some documents. See R9; Şentop, *Yargı sistemi*, p. 100.

⁴⁹ R 25, Sheet 75B/2: '...the shari'a affairs of the province of province Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to you *on the ground of preference and selection command (buyurdu) of his Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi (Sheikh al-Islam)*, to take over from the beginning of the month Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1270/25.08.1854...'

his decision, he sent a correspondence to his candidate, informing him of the appointment. We also see the appointment of a second naib by the first naib.

The following is an example of the qadi appointing a naib:

Sheet 100B:⁵⁰ His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Mustafa Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs along with [the affairs of] the division of inheritance of the army of the province Vidin, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred to your prosperous majesty by us from the beginning of Shawwal al-Mukarram of this year 1183/28.01.1770. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month] and that you enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants and that you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not deviate from the sound shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Hacı Ömer, judge in the province Vidin.

The following is an example of a naib appointing the second naib:

Sheet 20B/2:⁵¹ His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Hasan Rüşdü Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk, which are at my disposal as naib and I am permitted/authorised to appoint a naib, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty for one and a half months from the 15th day of the month Dhulqa'da Sharifa until the end of Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1219/15.02.1805-01.04.1805. It is required that you, as deputy

⁵⁰ S37.

⁵¹ R10.

judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the aforementioned month, and that you enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and that you write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not deviate from the exalted shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Said, appointed as a naib to the city of Ruscuk.

In the following document, we see the title holder of the *Haramayn Mevleviyet*, which is the second in the hierarchy of the judicial posts, being appointed as a naib by a fourth-class qadi.

Sheet 79B/1:⁵² His Excellency, the measure of law, from the holders of the rank of *Haramayn* (Mecca and Medina), the virtuous İbrahim Cemaleddin Effendi, may your success for the goodness endure,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with *Mevleviyet*, have been transferred and handed over to your honourable virtuousness, on the grounds of preference and selection command of his Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi, from the date of the twentieth of the month Rabi al-Akhir of this year 1290/17.06.1873. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the aforementioned day, and that you pay careful attention to make a good and more effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and to mark and to write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, which require registration, and to divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a at any time. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Aşır,
judge (*mutasarrıf*) in the aforesaid Province.

We see the religious dignitaries, such as an Imam (leader of daily prayers), a Mufti, a Mūderris (professor), being appointed as a naib. The following is an example of an Imam being appointed as a naib.

Sheet 105B:⁵³ The honourable İbrahim Effendi, a resident of the city Vidin, the Imam of the lower quarter,

After greetings, it is an official memorandum that I have transferred to you the *niyâbet* (deputyship) and the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid city, from the middle of Shawwal al-Mukarram of this year 1123/26.11.1711. It is required that you enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants from the beginning of the aforementioned [month]. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings. [It was] written at the aforesaid date of the aforementioned year.

From the poor, Hüseyn, judge in the city Vidin.

The following represents an example of the appointment of a mūderris as a naib. It is to be noted that the qadi demanded that the fees be sent to him. This document, however, does not make it clear whether or not the naib was entitled to keep a portion of the income of the court. However, it is likely that he was given one fifth of the income of the court as it was the case in the documents which will be examined.

Sheet 1B:⁵⁴ The pride of scholars, his Excellency, Seyyid Mehmet Effendi, may [your] success endure.

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the *niyâbet* (deputyship) of [the shari'a affairs of] the province of Sofia which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, has been handed over to your majesty from the beginning of the month Muharram al-Haram of this year 1230/14.12.1814. It is required that you need to be vigilant in enforcing the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants. The affairs of the division of inheritance of the soldiers of the aforesaid province have been handed over [to you] by us. [You] should write down the items [inheritance]

⁵³ S38.

⁵⁴ S31.

of the [deceased] soldiers. You should endeavour to collect the customary taxes/fees and send them to me. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Halil Rüşdü, judge in the city of Sofia.

In the document below, we see a Mufti being appointed as a naib for only one month. The reason for the appointment was recorded as the nearing the season of winter. The qadi demanded that one para (one fortieth of a kuruş) for each kuruş charged for the division of inheritance and 700 kuruş as a bonus for monthly income of the court be sent to him. As we shall see, the income of the court was divided between the holder of the title (qadi) and the serving naib.

Sheet 37B/2:⁵⁵ His Excellency, the measure of law, the Mufti of Ruscuk, paragon of the authoritative scholars, Hacı Hüseyin Effendi, the prosperous,

After greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the protected large (*müsmine*) [city] Ruscuk, which were transferred and handed over to the responsibility of this poor [man] to take over as a deputy judge for 20 months from the beginning of the month Jumad al-Ula of this year 1231/30.03.1816, have been heard by us until Dhulhijja Sharifa, thanks and praises to Allah. Since the season of winter is nearing, and in order to have easiness in the return and departure and it is required that we depart before the days of November (*Rûz-i Kasım*), and because of the permission [to appoint a naib] granted to us, the remaining one month has been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us from the beginning of the month Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1232/23.10.1816. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa for only one month, and that you do not fail to do your duty of enforcing the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants, and that you write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. It is expected that you sign the register of the division [of inheritance] of November and that you send to us one para (one fortieth

of a kuruş) for each kuruş collected in accordance with the shari'a and 700 kuruş as a bonus for monthly income. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Hafız Ali, appointed as a naib to the protected Ruscuk

The clerks of the court also served as a naib. The following is such an example:

Sheet 81A/1:⁵⁶ His Excellency, the measure of law, the clerk of the law court, Mevlana Mustafa Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province Ruscuk, which are at my disposal, have been transferred and handed over to you by us, from the 9th day of the month Shawwal al-Mukarram of this year 1193/20.10.1779. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, and that you enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and that you divide and distribute the inheritance of the deceased soldiers among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Hacı Mehmet, judge in the city of Ruscuk.

It is to be highlighted that some qadis appointed their close relatives as their substitutes. The following is such an example:

Sheet 2B:⁵⁷ His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana, my son, Hüseyin Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province Vidin, which were at my disposal, have been transferred to you by us from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1155/27.01.1743 and since the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army were delegated to us, they have also been handed over to your majesty. It is required that you enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and that you mark and write down inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in

⁵⁶ R8.

⁵⁷ S25A.

accordance with sharia. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

From the poor, Hasan, judge in the protected city of Vidin.

In the following document, we see a letter being sent by the military judge to the son of a qadi in order to inform him of his being appointed as a naib by his father. It is to be noted that a military commander was accompanied by a qadi. The document does not make it clear why the qadi was with a Pasha. It is however likely that the qadi was serving as a judge or an inspector or adjudicator in the army.

Sheet 1B/4:⁵⁸ His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Derviş Ali Effendi, the prosperous,

With the offering of appropriate greetings, it is an official memorandum that [the shari'a affairs of] the province Ruscuk were given to your father Mehmet Effendi from the beginning of Recep al-Sharif of this year 1251/23.10.1835. Since he presently is in the accompany and in the service of his Excellency, illustrious field marshal, illustrious and gracious, honourable and kind Ali Pasha, he appointed you as his naib in his letter [which he sent to us]. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province until your father the aforesaid Mehmet arrives, from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and that you pay attention to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants, and that you pay careful attention to carry out and complete the important issues in accordance with their requirements. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Piri zâde, Military judge of Rumili.

1.2.3 Duration of Service of the Qadis and the Naibs

As for the serving period of the qadis, historians state that it was two years in the early periods of the Empire and was shortened and became 20 months⁵⁹ in later periods. In their view, Mevleviyet qadis were appointed to serve only for one year.⁶⁰ Our documents show that it was generally between 20⁶¹ months and two years⁶² and that the whole period was called customary period.⁶³ The extension of their service period was an exemption.⁶⁴ After the expiry of their term, they became ex-office holders until their term came round again. According to our documents, the duration of the waiting period (*zaman-ı infisâl*)⁶⁵ was between 25⁶⁶ and 62 months.⁶⁷

When it comes to the duration of service of the naibs, it depended on the qadi's service time. However, they were generally appointed for one year. After the expiry of one year term, the duration was extended or he

59 Özel states that the duration period was between 18 months and 3 years. Uzunçarşılı maintains that it was 20 months. He also mentions that there are documents which show that it was longer. Some state that it was two years, one year was the customary period and the second year was the extension period. Ortaylı states that two year service was the customary period. Uzunçarşılı, *İlmiye Teşkilatı*, p. 94 (footnote 4); Ortaylı, 'Kadi', *TDVİA*, v. 24, p. 71; Özel, T., 'Osmanlıda Kadılık Müessesesi', (http://www.yeniumit.com.tr/yazdir.php?konu_id=1066), accessed on 16.04.2010.

60 Akgündüz, *Kanunnameler*, vol.1, 231.

61 The following document is an example of the service period for 20 months. S9, Sheet 3B/1... *It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province for only twelve months when its time has come...and that you complete your remaining eight month [customary] period in another province...*

62 R2, Sheet 60A1; S42, Sheet 2B.

63 In the following document, 16 month was fixed as the service period: '*...It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Sha'ban al-Mu'azzam for only sixteen months...*' (S49 Sheet 2B) Another document shows that it was 18 months: '*...It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Shawwal al-Mukarram of the aforementioned year, for only 18 months...*' S61, Sheet 1B.

64 The following document indicates that the service period of the qadi was extended for 6 months and that the whole term of the qadi was fixed as 30 months: '*...[His service period] has been extended for six months as conferred in the past. You should have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Shawwal of this year 1109/12.04.1698, for whole thirty months.*' R2, Sheet 60A/2.

65 Uzunçarşılı states that this period was two years. Uzunçarşılı, *İlmiye Teşkilatı*, pp. 94-95.

66 S9, Sheet 3B/1. It was 38 months in the following entry. R6, Sheet 3B/2.

67 S14 Sheet 1B/2. See also S42, Sheet 2B (it was 48 months).

was replaced by another naib.⁶⁸ We even see the appointment of a naib for a few days as in the case below.

Sheet 1B/1:⁶⁹ My honourable spirit, Ali Effendi, with the help of God,⁷⁰

Until we arrive and turn on Thursday, you, as deputy judge (*niyâbeten*), enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a in the city Ruscuk. You should not deviate from the exalted [shari'a]. With cordial greetings. On 28 Rabi al-Akhir 1155/02.07.1742.

The poor, İsmail, judge in the city Ruscuk.

It is worth mentioning that the service time of some qadis was extended on the grounds of their good relations with the residents of the province in which they were serving.⁷¹ Furthermore, there are documents which indicate that their service period was extended at the request of a military commander-in-chief. The following is an example of this kind of extension:

Sheet 12B:⁷² To his graciousness [no name is recorded, it is however likely that it refers to the judge Selim Molla]...

After full greetings, our dear, it is an official memorandum that since a friendly letter, [confirming that] you have the jurisdiction authority in Sofia, and you carefully enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and you have the upright conduct and good behaviour, was received from the commander-in-chief, a mahreç⁷³ *buyruldu* has been issued by his exalted and magnificent kindness, the Padişah. The required firman which confers the duty [to you] has been sent to you. A

⁶⁸ R22, S312/4.

⁶⁹ R38.

⁷⁰ The original document reads as follows: 'Benim izzetlâ ruhum Ali efendi, bi avnih-i Teâlâ, biz Perşembe'ye varup gelince, niyâbeten medine-i Ruscuk'da icrâ-yı ahkâm-ı şer'iyye idüb câde hakkından sermü inhirâf-a cevâz göstermiyesiz. Ve's-selâm. Fî 28 Rebiü'l-âhîr 1155. El-fakîr, İsmail, el-Kâdi bi medine-i Ruscuk.'

⁷¹ R2, Sheet 60A/2.

⁷² S32.

⁷³ This refers to the fourth degree *Mevleviyet*.

communication letter has been written down. With the bestowing of God, on its arrival, from now on, you need to be very careful in and pay attention to the enforcement of the purified shari'a, and you need to get on well with people. With cordial greetings. It is written on the last ten days of Sha'ban 1228/18-28.08.1813.

The poor, Dürrizâde Abdullah.

In the following document we see a Muhzır⁷⁴ being sent to the Porte to request the extension of the service period of a qadi.

Sheet 60A/1:⁷⁵ At the beginning of Sha'ban in the year 1110/02.02.1699. Since the Sheikh Mehmet, the judge of Ruscuk, had praiseworthy and good relations with the inhabitants, a Muhzır has brought a petition from the inhabitants [of the province] to the Divan-ı ali (Imperial Council), requesting that he [the judge] should have the disposal of [the province] for more than two years, a firman has been issued that [his period of service] be extended. The service period of the aforesaid well-wisher has been extended for six months as conferred in the past. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province], for thirty months from the beginning of Shawwal of the aforementioned year, *sadaka* is commended.

The following document indicates that the service duration of the judge was shortened by 3 months and that the new judge was to serve a total of 21 months, ten months in Vidin and 11 months in Silistre. The document, however, does not make it clear why the service time of the judge was shortened.

Sheet 14B:⁷⁶ His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Sadeddin Effendi, the prosperous,

⁷⁴ Muhzır was a person in charge of summoning people to the court. Heyd, U. *Studies in old Ottoman Criminal Law*, (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1973), pp. 236, 272 (footnote); Jennings, "Qadi", p. 151; Bayındır, *Muhakeme Hukuku*, p. 81.

⁷⁵ R2.

⁷⁶ S305.

After greetings, it is an official memorandum that the service term of Shaban, the judge (*mutasarrıf*) of Vidin, has been shortened by 3 months in accordance with a high Firman, and so he will be deposed after one month from the end of Dhulhijja of this year 1133/22.10.1721. His position has been given to you, as you are written and recorded in our second term registry, and as you have the kind help of Sultan. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Safar of the next year, for only 11 months, and that you complete your remaining period [in Silistre] having Kürkçü zâde Sunullah, the judge of Silistre completed his remaining period and being deposed, and that you have the disposal of [Silistre] for only 10 months, and you enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Sheikh Mehmet, Military judge of Rumili.

1.2.4 Dismissal of the Qadis

As far as the removal of the qadis is concerned, in the Hanafi view, the political authority has the right to dismiss the qadi with or without a reason. In case of dismissal, the serving qadi carries on his duty until the arrival of his successor. The resignation of the qadi is also recognised.⁷⁷

Our documents indicate that the qadi was removed from the post once his duration of service has come to an end. There are also some documents indicating that the qadis were removed on the grounds of several reasons such as irregularities, acting beyond their authority and so on.⁷⁸ For example, the following two documents underline that the qadi was dismissed on the grounds that he attempted to appoint a naib against the Imperial decree.

1: Sheet 3B/1: Rabi alAkhir 1154,⁷⁹

⁷⁷ Ibn Humam, *Fath al-Qadir*, vol. 7, p. 264.

⁷⁸ For more see, Şentop, *Yargı sistemi*, p. 96-100.

⁷⁹ The original document reads (R38): *Fî şehr-i Rebiü'l-âhîr 1154, Ruscuk kadısı Hacı Mahmut kazâ-yı mezkûrda...hilâfî Hatt-ı Hümayun naib nasbına cesaret itmekle gaybet-i şehr-i mezbûrdan bi Fermân-ı âlî raf' ve yeri muvakkat-ı olduĖun qadıasker-i esbak ruznamçesi'nde mukayyed eşrâf-ı kudât-ı*

Hacı Mahmut, the judge of Ruscuk, [illegible] will be deposed in accordance with the high Firman as of the end of the aforesaid month, because he attempted to appoint a naib in contradiction with the Imperial decree. His position has been given to well-wisher Mevlana İsmail, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and as he is from the honourable and the reverend judges, and as he has the kind help of the Sultan. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province], from the beginning of Jumad al-Ula of the aforementioned year, for full customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

2: Sheet 3B/2:⁸⁰ His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana İsmail Effendi, the prosperous,

After full greetings, it is an official memorandum that Hacı Mahmut, the judge of Ruscuk, [illegible] will be deposed in accordance with the high Firman as of the end of the month Rabi al-Akhir of this year 1154/11.09.1741, because he attempted to appoint a naib in contradiction with the Imperial decree. His position has been given to you, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and as you are from the honourable and the reverend judges, and as you have the kind help of the Sultan. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Jumad al-Ula of the aforementioned year, for the full customary period, and that you enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants . With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Emin, Military judge of Rumili.

kirâm zevi'l-ihtirâmdan, siz edâr-ı inâyet-i şehriyâr-i Mevlâna İsmail dâilerine tenciz ve ifâ olunup, sene-i mezbûre Cemâdi'l-ülâsından müddet-i örfiye kâmile mutasarrıf olmak recâsına bâde'l-arz sadaka buyruldu.'

80 The original document reads (R38): 'İzzetmeâb şeriat-nisâb Mevlâna İsmail efendi kamyâb, Tahiyât-i vâfiye iblâğıyla inhâ olunur ki; Ruscuk kadısı Hacı Mahmut kazâ-yı mezbûrda...hilâfî Hatt-ı Hümayun naib nasbına cesaret itmekle, iş bu sene bin yüz elli dört (1154) şehr-i Rebîü'l-âhîr'in gaybetinden bi Fermân-ı âli raf' ve yeri muvakkat-ı olduğun Kadıasker-i esbak ruznamçesi'nde mukayyed eşrâf-ı kudât-ı kirâm zevi'l-ihtirâmdan, siz edâr-ı inâyet-i şehriyâr-i olmakla sana tenciz ve ifâ olunmuştur. Gerekdir ki, kazâ-yı mezbûr-u seneyi merkûm-e Cemâdi'l-ülâsı guresinden müddet-i örfiye kâmile mutasarrıf olup beyne'l-ehâli icrâ-yı ahkâm-ı şer'î âli eyleyesiz. Ve's-selâm. El-fakir Mehmet Emin, Kadı asker Rumeli.'

The following two documents indicate that the qadi was removed from the post on the grounds of injustice and irregularities. These documents make it clear that the judge was accused of provoking the leaders and overcharging the traders and causing damage to the income of the Empire. In addition, a short poem, stressing the importance of justice, composed by his successor suggests that his predecessor was deposed on these grounds.⁸¹ Once the qadi was removed, a provisional naib was appointed until the qadi's successor arrived.

1: Sheet 34A/2:⁸² (In summary):... presently, the judge of Ruscuk [Hafız Ahmet]... since he was greedy, he provoked the leaders and...it is clear that he betrayed the State treasury...since such behaviour of the qadi caused loss not only to the State treasury but also to others...Hacı Muhammed, laudable pride of commanders and greats, may his highness endure, the head Defterdar (Director of finances) requested (*İlam*) that the aforesaid qadi be dismissed as a deterrent to others (*sâireye mûceb-i ibret içün*)...and that a pious and an honest qadi be appointed to his post...I commanded that...you are the aforementioned Mevlana [this probably refers to Seyyid Mehmet, Military judge of Rumili], you depose the aforesaid qadi and appoint to his place a pious and an honest qadi in accordance with the requirement of the request of the aforesaid [Defterdar], you should act in accordance with the requirement of my high commandment...Written in the middle of Jumad al-Akhira, for the year 1128/18.06.1715.

2: Sheet 34A/3:⁸³ His Excellency, the measure of law., Abdullah Effendi, the prosperous,

It is an official memorandum that a Firman has been issued that Hafız Ahmet, the judge of Ruscuk, is to be dismissed as of the middle of the Jumad al-Akhira of this year 1127/18.06.1715. He has been dismissed. Since it is necessary and important that a naib be appointed until the muvakkatı/the

⁸¹ Sheet 36A/4.

⁸² R51.

⁸³ R51.

successor judge⁸⁴ arrives in accordance with correspondence, the *niyâbet* (deputyship) of the aforesaid province has been transferred and handed over to you by us. It is required that you go to the aforesaid province, and that you enforce the judgments of the shari'a, and that you write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a and that you send the customary taxes to us. You should not deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings. On the aforesaid date and the aforementioned year.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet, Military judge of Rumili.

It is worth mentioning here that there is a document indicating that a naib was appointed when the serving qadi had left his jurisdiction. It, however, does not make it clear the reasons for which the qadi left his office. It is, however, possible that he was threatened by the residents of the province as he was breaching the laws of the country, and so he abandoned his work. There might have been some other reasons.

Sheet 6A:⁸⁵ Sign of the law, full of virtuousness, the judge of Vidin, the virtuous Effendi,⁸⁶ may his virtuousness endure,

It is an official memorandum that the judge of Lom Palanka, a dependency of Vidin, fled before completing his term of service and so caused [the execution of] the judgements of the shari'a among the inhabitants and the exalted services to be suspended. You are the aforesaid judge, you should send a virtuous naib so that he enforces the purified shari'a between the servants of Allah, until the qadi of Palanka arrives.

1.2.5 Income of the law court

As for the charges of the law court, legally the qadis were entitled to charge for 25 akçes out of 1000 akçes or 2.5%. Of these 20 akçes belonged to the qadi, and the rest 5 akçes went to other officers of the court. The qadis were entitled to charge for *kassâmiyye* (division), *kâtibiyye* (clerk), *hüddâmiyye*

⁸⁴ The term 'Muvakkatî' refers to the candidate who is next in the line to be appointed.

⁸⁵ S67.

⁸⁶ The name of the judge was not recorded.

(services), *muhzırıyye* (summoner), and *harc-ı mahkeme* (fee for the law court). A provision of a code of law states that '25 akçes out of 1000 [are to be charged] for marriage, and huccets, and transfer of the testimony and the arz (submission of petition), of which 20 akçes are for the qadi, and 5 akçes for the servants of the court. 66 akçes [are to be charged] for the manumission of slaves, of which 50 are for the qadi, and 10 are for the naib, and the 6 for the clerk and the trustee of the court (*emin*). 16 akçes [are to be charged] for the correspondences, and 8 akçes tax [is to be charged] for the registry (*sicil*), for which the decision is inscribed into the court rolls, of which 6 is for the qadi, and 1 for the naib, and 1 for the *emin*.'⁸⁷ The qadis were entitled to charge for the division of inheritance, one para (one fortieth of a kuruş) for each kuruş (silver coin), and for the registration, 60 para for each 1000 kuruş. If the estates were sold by auction, 2 kuruş for 1000 kuruş were to be charged for *dellâliyye* (fee for the broker). A portion of this income was divided among the officers of the court such as clerk, Muhzır, Çukadar.⁸⁸

The following documents indicate that the qadis charged for their services in line with these code of laws:

1: Sheet 2B:⁸⁹ To the source of his Excellency, the virtuous, the affectionate Effendi,

With the offering of pure greetings and many salutations...our desire is that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province Sofya, which is in your administration, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us from the beginning of Rabi al-Akhir of [the year] 1219/10.07.1804. We affectionately expect that you pay attention and endeavour to write down the inheritance of the [diseased] soldiers and of the little boys and girls, and of the heir who is absent and you divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the share which Allah, the Generous, prescribed, after taking the rights of the shari'a related

⁸⁷ Akgündüz, *Kanunnameler*, vol. 1, p. 191

⁸⁸ Akgündüz, *Kanunnameler*, vol. 1, p. 191; Feyzioğlu, 'Kadılık', <http://dergiler.ankara.edu.tr/dergiler/18/35/284.pdf>, accessed on 17.04.2010; See also, Çadırcı, M., *Tanzimat Döneminde Anadolu Kentlerinin Sosyal ve Ekonomik Yapıları*, (Ankara, 1991).

⁸⁹ S 164.

to the heritage out, [that is] the fee for the law suit along with the fee for the clerk and for the services, a total of one quarter of one tenth (*rub-u öşür=0.025*) which was determined and was permitted by the lawyers, their highness, may the mercy of Allah, the Sovereign, the Omniscient be with them, in accordance with their statement that it is like the *Zekat* (alms),⁹⁰ being 25 kuruş out of 1000 kuruş...and that you should abstain and avoid of charging for the testament and maintenance huccets and of writing down the heritage belonging to the adult heirs unless they demanded. May your virtuousness endure.

Seyyid İbrahim İsmet, Military judge of Rumili.

2: Sheet 2B:⁹¹ To the honourable, exalted, just law court of his Excellency, the virtuous, the honourable, the affectionate Effendi,

With the offering of many greetings and many salutations...our desire is that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the Sofia province, which is in the domain of your administration in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred to your responsibility and attention from the beginning of Rabi al-Akhir of this year 1214/12.09.1799. We sincerely expect that you persevere and make an effort to write down the inheritance of the diseased soldiers which belongs to the little boys and girls, which takes place and require registration, and that you divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia, after taking the related rights from the remaining inheritance out, [that is] the fee for the heritage, and for the lawsuit along with the fee for the clerk, a total of 25 kuruş out of 1000 kuruş, and that you should abstain and avoid of charging for the testament and maintenance huccets and of writing down the heritage belonging to the adult heirs unless they demanded and that you should file suits on behalf of the widows and the orphans of the Muslims.

The poor, Ahmet Esat, Military judge of Rumili.

⁹⁰ For a discussion on the relation between the concept of alms and the fees of the courts, see Salih b. Ahmed al-Kafawi, *Fatawa Ali Efendi ma'a Nuqul lil Kafawi*, (İstanbul: Matba'a 'Amira, no date), vol. 2, p. 615-616; Ibn Bazzaz, Hafız al-Din Muhammed b. Muhammed, *Fatawa al-Bazzaziyya* in the margins of *al-Fatawa al-Hindiyya*, (Egypt: Kubara Amiriyya, 1310), vol. 5, p. 140, vol. 6, pp.151-154; Sarakhshi, Muhammed b. Ahmed, *al-Mabsut*, (Beirut: Dar al-Fikr, 1989), vol. 15, pp. 4-7, vol. 16, p. 94; Bilmen, Ö. N. *Hukuku İslamiyye ve Istilahatı Fıkhiyye Kamusu*, (İstanbul: Bilmen Basımevi, 1969), vol. 7, p. 143.

⁹¹ S311/9.

3: Sheet 32B/3:⁹² To his comprehending Excellency, the affectionate, the honourable, the reverend, the virtuous Effendi,

With the offering of affectionate prayers and the close glorious affection, our desire is that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the city, Sofia province, which is at your disposal in accordance with the rank of Mevleviyet..., have been transferred and handed over to your honourable majesty by us from the beginning of Jumad al-Akhira of [this year] 1234/28.03.1819. We affectionately expect and it is required that you pay attention and attempt to write down and to mark the inheritance of the [diseased] soldiers, which takes place in the aforesaid province and require registration, and to divide and to distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a, and that you should abstain and avoid of demanding fee required for the division [of inheritance] above one quarter of one tenth (*rub-u öşür*=0.025) which was permitted by the subsequent scholars (*müteahhiriyn*) and charging for the testament and maintenance huccets and intervening in the matters of heritage belonging to the adult heirs unless they demanded and that you fully conform to the exalted commandments which were previously issued...May your virtuousness endure.

Sincerely, Hacı Halil, Military judge of Rumili.

It is worth mentioning that a portion of the taxes and the fees charged for the division of inheritance was to be sent to the Military judges. In other words, the military judges received a part of the income of the law court. According to the following document, the military judge demanded that four fifth of the taxes and the fees be sent to him. Only one fifth was left to the naib who dealt with the division of inheritance. According to the Ottoman legal codes, the qadi/qassam⁹³ was authorized to charge for the division of inheritance for 2%; a total of 20 akçe out of 1000 akçe. Of which 10 akçe, 1% belongs the qadi, 5 akçe, 0.5% belongs to the naib and emin; 5 akçe 0.5% goes to the Qassam.⁹⁴

⁹² S309bis/4.

⁹³ Qassam refers to the divider of an estate among the heirs under the supervision of a qadi. Bayerle, *Pashas*, p. 95

⁹⁴ Öztürk mentions that the rate of fees changed in practice from 0.85% to 3.5%. Akgündüz, *Kanunnameler*, vol. 1, p. 191; Öztürk, S., 'Kassam', *TDVİA*, vol. 24, pp. 579-581.

The documents read as follows:

1: Sheet 7B/1:⁹⁵ His Excellency, the measure of law, the honourable naib of the province Ruscuk, Mevlana Seyyid hafız Mehmet Şemseddin,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that since the writing of inheritance of the diseased called Shopkeeper (Bakka) İsmail, who previously died while he was a resident of the aforesaid province, is among the special subjects as it is related to the division of inheritance of the soldiers, the subject of writing has been transferred and handed over to you by us. It is required that you write down and mark all inheritances of the aforesaid deceased [İsmail] which are in the aforesaid province and in that region, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia, and that you rewrite down and remark for the adult heirs if it [inheritance] was written in a way and [you] found that the division was unjust and the tax for the division was collected, and you redivide and redistribute them among the inheritors in accordance with sharia, and that you hear the related legal lawsuits in accordance with the shari'a, and that you send to us the signed and the stamped notebook and after taking one fifth out, [you should send to us] the remaining collected customary taxes and the fees for the documents. With cordial greetings.

The poor Seyyid Mehmet Zeynelabidin, the first Imam of the Sultan,
Military judge of Rumili.

2: Sheet 7B/3:⁹⁶ His Excellency, the measure of law, the honourable naib of the province Ruscuk, Mevlana Seyyid hafız Mehmet Şemseddin,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that since the writing of inheritance of the diseased called Hacı Ahmet, from the emigrants of Silistre, who previously died while he was a resident of the aforesaid province, is among the special subjects as it is related to the division of inheritance of the soldiers, the subject of writing has been transferred and handed over to you by us. It is required that you write down and mark all inheritances of the

⁹⁵ R21.

⁹⁶ R21.

aforesaid deceased [Ahmet] which are in the aforesaid province and in that region, and divide and distribute them among the inheritors in accordance with sharia, and that you re-write down and re-mark for the adult heirs if it [the inheritance] was written in a way and [you] found that the division was unjust and the tax for the division was collected, and you redivide and redistribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia, and that you hear the related legal lawsuits in accordance with the shari'a, and that you send to us the signed and the stamped notebook and after taking one fifth out, [you should send to us] the remaining collected customary taxes and the fees for the documents. With cordial greetings.

The poor Seyyid Mehmet Zeynelabidin, the first Imam of the Sultan,
Military judge of Rumili.

In the following document, the military judge demanded that the customary taxes be sent to him as they belong to him. The statement 'customary taxes' may refer to the monetary entitlements prescribed by the law.

Sheet 81A:⁹⁷ The pride of the judges, İbrahim Effendi, the prosperous, With the offering of pure greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province Sofya have been transferred to you by us, from the beginning of Recep al-Fard of this year 1091/28.07.1680. It is required that you write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, which takes place in the aforesaid province, and after dividing it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia, send [to us] the customary taxes which belong to us. With cordial greetings.

From the poor, Ahmet, Military judge of Rumili.

The following document indicates that the military judge was holding the judicial authority of a province. Since he was serving as a military judge, he sent a substitute. As we have seen, a major portion of the income of the law court was to be sent to the holder of the title (the appointed qadi). In

⁹⁷ S85.

this case, the military judge was to receive the big portion of the income of the court.

Sheet 4A/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Lütfullah Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs and the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province Hacıoğlupazarı, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us, from the beginning of the month Jumad al-Akhira of this year 1230/11.05.1815. It is required that you, as deputy [judge], assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and that you should make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and that you mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings,

The poor, Hacı İbrahim, Military judge of Rumili.

Another point to be raised here is that the heir of a diseased judge was entitled to receive the income of the court until a certain time.⁹⁸ The following document clearly indicates that when a certain judge Mehmet died, a naib was appointed and was asked to send the income of the court to the heir of the diseased qadi, Mehmet.

Sheet 3B:⁹⁹ His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Musa Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Mehmet Sadık Effendi, the judge of Vidin, has died with the command of Allah. [The shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province have been given to his heir until the end of Rabi al-Akhir of this year 1182/12.09.1768. We have appointed

⁹⁸ Ahmet Cevdet states that the naibs received a portion of the income of the court, sending the rest to the holder of the title, the appointed qadi. Ahmet Cevdet, *Tarih-i Cevdet*, (İstanbul, 1302), vol.1, p. 92; See also Feyzioğlu, 'Kadılik', <http://dergiler.ankara.edu.tr/dergiler/18/35/284.pdf>, accessed on 17.04.2010.

⁹⁹ S39.

you as a naib for the aforesaid province until the end of the aforementioned month. It is required that you enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a. You should pay careful attention and be upright and follow the custom in all respects, [especially] in sending and submitting the income of the province and the taxes for the division of [inheritance of] the army and of local people received at the aforesaid time, to the heir [of the diseased judge]. With cordial greetings.

In the following document, we see the replacement of the qadi by a naib because of the qadi's debts to the military judge. The document suggests that a decree was obtained for this purpose. With the appointment of the naib, it is expected that the debts of the qadi be paid off by the income of the court. The statement 'after taking one fifth out' implies that one fifth of the income of the court belongs to the serving naib, and the rest, four fifth, belongs to the qadi. Since the qadi was in debt to the military judge, this four fifth was to be sent to him.

Sheet 77A/2:¹⁰⁰ His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Ali Effendi who is authorized to issue fatwa (legal opinion) in the province of Ruscuk, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that a high letter/document has been issued by his Excellency, the favoured lord (*velî-naîm*) in accordance with the legal (shari'a) correspondence which required that the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province be transferred to you in accordance with the *inâbet*, by the serving judge Seyyid Mehmet Muhyiddin Effendi, [and so you] take over from the beginning of Muharram al-Haram of this year 1245/03.07.1829. In the aforesaid [province], you make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a. Since the aforesaid Effendi owes to us, you should record for [the name of] the aforesaid Effendi, the collected fees for the official legal documents (*sukûk*) and title-deeds. After taking one fifth out [for yourself, you should send the rest, four fifth, to us]. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Yahya Piri zâde, Military judge of Rumili.

We have come across a document in which a portion of the income of the court was allocated and handed out to a sheikh (leader) of a mystical order.

The entry reads:

Sheet 25A:¹⁰¹ Honourable Hafız Seyyid Mustafa Effendi, our naib in the city, Sofia law court,

After proper greetings, our desire is that the initiator of this correspondence is that from the exalted dervish order (*tarikât*) of Haleviyye,¹⁰² paragon among the brilliant men and the beloved of the hearts of the renowned (*mahbûb-u kulûbu'l-ârifîyn*), [and] desired of the souls of the lovers (*matlûb-u nufûsu'l-âşıkîyn*), the pride of the most honoured men, and the beloved of the pious and the righteous men, Sheikh Yahya Effendi has been appointed to the vacant post by the Porte (*bab-ı mahsûl?*) with a 12 akçes daily salary. You (need to) give and submit the aforesaid amount of money per month to the aforementioned Sheikh Yahya Effendi. Henceforth, it is expected that their Excellencies, the exalted Mevâlî¹⁰³ Effendis of the aforesaid city who hold the leadership of the dervish orders (*seccâde-i nişîn-i şeriat-i garrâ*),¹⁰⁴ [let] the aforesaid Effendi carry out the aforementioned duty per month.¹⁰⁵ He may receive a good reward.

The poor Süleyman Effendizâde Mehmet Sait, judge of the city Sofia.

¹⁰¹ S 29.

¹⁰² This is a dervish order established by Necmeddin el-Kübra (d. 618/1221). For more, see, Türer, O., "Tasavvuf Yolunun Önderlerinden Necmeddin-i Kübrâ", http://www.yeniumit.com.tr/konular.php?sayi_id=81&konu_id=1184&yumit=bolum2, accessed on 18.04.2010; Tatlıoğlu, D. 'Kubrevî Tarikatının Türkmenistandaki Etkisi', <http://eskiweb.cumhuriyet.edu.tr/edergi/makale/255.pdf>, accessed on 18.04.2010.

¹⁰³ This may refer to the elders of the dervish orders. It may also refer to the followers of Ali, the fourth caliph. <http://www.tevbe.org/forum/tasavvuf/23198-tasavvuf-terimleri-m-harfi.html>

¹⁰⁴ This refers to the sheikh/leader of a dervish order. This term is used to identify the sheikh who sits on the seccade/prayer rug. This term was sometimes replaced by that of "post-nişîn" which also refers to the sheikh who sits on the rug. <http://www.tasavvufalemi.com/sayfa.php?yaziNo=187>

¹⁰⁵ This document does not make it clear what kind of duty, the appointed sheikh was required to carry out per month. However, it is likely that they need to make a collective prayer under the leadership of the designated Sheikh Yahya Effendi

1.3 The Terminology of the Judicial Records

The purpose of this section is to set out the terminology and the stereotypical phrases which take place in almost all appointment documents and decrees.

1.3.1 Petition to the Porte

Introductory section:

Date: *Fî Safer el-Hayr li sene ihdâ ve selâsiyn ve mieteyn ve elf (1231)/In* Safar al-Khayr in the year 1231/January 1816

Starting phrase: *Ruscuk Mutasarrıfı/The judge of Ruscuk*

Name of the deposed judge: Ali hıfzı,

Time of dismissal: *Gaybet-i şehri âtîden bir ay tevkit-i ile raf'*/will be deposed after one month from the end of the next month

The name of the newly appointed judge and the reason for the appointment: *ve yeri muvakkat-ı olduğu qadiasker-i esbak ruznamçesi'nde mukayyed eşrâf-ı kudât-ı kirâm zevi'l-ihtirâmdan, siz edâr-ı inâyet-i şehriyâr ve şâyeste-i ra'fet-i tecdâr-î Mevlana Mehmet Effendi dâîlerine ber tevcih-i esbak ibkâ olunup/* His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Mehmet Effendi, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, he is from the honourable and the reverend judges, and he has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown.¹⁰⁶

Concluding statement: *Sene-i mezbûre Cemâdi'l-ûlâ'sı guresinden müddet-i örfiye kâmile mutasarrıf olmak recâsına bâ'de'l-arz sadaka buyruldu/* After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province], from the beginning of Jumad al-Ula of the aforementioned year, for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

¹⁰⁶ An alternative rendering of the translation would be as follows: 'His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Mehmet EEffendi. Since he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge and he is from the honourable and the reverend judges, he had the kind help of the Sultan and deserved the clemency of the Crown.' Another alternative would be: 'His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Mehmet Effendi as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and as you are from the honourable and the reverend judges, and as you have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown.' I preferred the first translation given in the main text above, because it best fits to the third person pronoun. Since the clause begins with a third person pronoun, it should follow.



1.3.2 Documents Issued by the Military Judge

The following represents the wide usage of a stereotype in the documents issued by the military judges.

Introductory section:

Name and the title of the new judge: *İzzetmeâb şeriat-nisâb eşrâf-ı kudât-ı kirâm zevi'l-ihtirâmdan, Mevlana Mehmet Effendi kamyâb/His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and the reverend judges, Mevlana Mehmet Effendi, the prosperous.*

Starting phrase: *Bâde'l-tahiyeti'l-vâfiye inhâ olunur ki/After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that.*

Name and the title of the deposed judge: *Ruscuk Mutasarrıfı Ali hıfzı/ The judge of Ruscuk, Ali hıfzı.*

Time of dismissal: *İşbu sene ihdâ ve selâsiyn ve mieteyn ve elf (1231), şehri Rebîu'l-ûlâ gaybetinden bir ay tevkît-i ile ra'f/will be deposed after one month from the end of Rabi al-Ula of this year 1231/29.02.1816.*

The reason for the appointment: *ve yeri muvakkat-ı olduğun qadiasker-i esbak ruznamçesi'nde mukayyed eşrâf-ı kudât-ı kirâm zevi'l-ihtirâmdan siz edâr-ı inâyet-i şehriyâr ve şâyeste-i ra'fet-i tecdâr-i olmakla ber tevcîh-i esbak sana ibkâ olunmuştur/His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and as you are from the honourable and the reverend judges, and as you have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown.¹⁰⁷*

The scope of the power: *Gerekdir ki, kazâ-yı merkûm-u seneyi mezbûre Cemâdi'l-ûlâ'sı gurrasinden müddet-i örfiye kâmile mutasarrıf olup, beyne'l-ehâli icrâ-yı ahkâm-ı şer'iyye'ye sâ'y-ı cemîl ve mevtâ-yı askeriye muhallelâtını dahi tahrir ve terkîm ve beyne'l-verese bi'l-ferîza şer'iyye tevzi ve taksîm eylesesiz/It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Jumad al-Ula of the aforementioned year, for the whole customary period, and that you make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants ,*

¹⁰⁷ An alternative translation would be rendered as follows: 'His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past. Since you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and you are from the honourable and the reverend judges, you had the kind help of the Emperor and deserved the clemency of the Crown.'

and that you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia.

Concluding phrase: With cordial greetings.

The name and the title of the Military judge who issued the document: el-Fakîr es-Seyyid Mustafa, qadiasker Rumeli/The poor, Seyyid Mustafa, Military judge of Rumili.

1.3.3 Appointment of a Naib

Introductory section:

Name and the title of the naib: *İzzetmeâb şeriat-i nisâb, Mevlana Sipâhi Halil Effendi, kâmyâb/His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Sipâhi Halil Effendi, the prosperous.*

Starting phrase: *Bâ'de'l-tahiyyeti'l-vâfiye inhâ olunur ki/After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that.*

The power of the qadi, and the place of the appointment: *Ber vech-i mansıb mutasarrıf olduğum Ruscuk kazâsının umûru şer'iyyesi/the shari'a affairs of the province Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment.*

Time of delegation of authority: *Sene erba'a ve mieteyn ve elf (1204), Recep el-Ferd'in guresinden cenâbınıza tefvîz ve ihâle olunmuştur/have been transferred and handed over to your majesty, from the beginning of Recep al-Fard of this year 1204/17.03.1790.*

The scope of the power: *Gerekdir ki, kazâ-yı mezkûru gurre-i mâh-ı merkûmeden zabt idûb ve beyne'l-ehâli icrâ-yı ahkâm-ı şer'i âli idûb, mevtâ-yı askeriye muhallelâtını dahi tahrîr ve terkîm ve beyne'l-verese bi'l-ferîza şer'iyye tevzî ve taksîm idûb/It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of the aforementioned month, and that you enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and that you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia.*

Concluding statement: *Câdeh-i şer'iyye'den inhirâfa cevaz göstermiyesiz/You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a.*

Concluding phrase: *Ve's-selâm/With cordial greetings.*

The name and the title of the judge who appointed the naib: *el-fakîr Osman, el-Kâdi bi medîne-i Ruscuk*/The poor, Osman, judge in the city Ruscuk.

1.4 Significant Points Raised by the Documents

1.4.1 Appointment of Qassams

It is worth underlining that Hanafi scholars entitle a qadi to appoint a qassam.¹⁰⁸ Documents studied clearly show that they were appointed either by the military judges or by the qadis.¹⁰⁹ The documents also make it clear that the qadis and naibs were generally given the power of dealing with the estate of *askeri*¹¹⁰ people. While some appointment decrees contain authorization for both judiciary and the division of inheritance, the others do not. In the latter case, we see a separate authorisation being issued. In some important cases, the military judges sent a separate authorisation to the serving qadis to deal with the inheritance of certain special persons.¹¹¹

The following is an example of authorization for both judiciary and the division of inheritance:

Sheet 26B:¹¹² His Excellency, the measure of law, Küçük Qadizâde Mehmet Arif Effendi, the prosperous,

After salutation, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs along with [the affairs of] the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province Vidin have been transferred and handed over to you from the beginning

¹⁰⁸ Marghinani, *Hidaya*, vol. 4, pp. 41-42.

¹⁰⁹ The following served as qassam: Sheikh Mehmet, İbrahim, Hüseyin, and Abdulgani. S12, 1B, 46A, 48A, 55B.

¹¹⁰ In the Ottoman Empire, the subjects were divided into two categories, *re'aya* and *askeri*. While *re'aya* corresponds to the tax paying Ottoman subjects, *askeri* signifies the servants of the Ottoman administration, exempt from certain taxes such as dignitaries, soldiers, scholars, judiciary class. Sahillioglu, H. 'Askeri', *TDVİA*, vol. 3, p. 488, İnalcık, H., 'Osmanlılarda Raiyet Rûsumu', *Belleten*, C. XXIII, No. 92, p. 596; Akgündüz, *Kanunnameler*, vol. 1, p. 586, vol. 2, pp. 60-61; Lewis, B. 'Askari', *EP*, vol. 1, p. 712; Mumcu, A. *Osmanlı Devletinde Siyaseten Katl*, (Ankara: Ajans-Türk Matbaası, 1963), p. 55-71; Şentop, *Yargı Sistemi*, pp.10-11, 142-143.

¹¹¹ R1, 7B/1, 7B/3, 27A/3; S21, 12B; S59, 43A.

¹¹² S69.

of Jumad al-Akhira of this year 1210/13.12.1795. It is required that you, as a substitute (*bin-niyâbe*), have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and that you make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants and that you write down and mark the inheritance of the diseased soldiers, which takes place, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the share of the sound shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Hayrullah, Military judge of Rumili.

The following is an example of a separate authorisation for the division of inheritance by the military judge:

Sheet 4A/2:¹¹³ His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Ruscuk, Mevlana Arifi Hacı Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you from the beginning of Rabi al-Ula of this year 1149/10.07.1736. It is required that after writing down and marking the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, which takes place in the aforesaid province, you divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Zeynelabidin, Military judge of Rumili.

The following is an example of a separate authorisation for the division of inheritance of a certain *ağa*¹¹⁴ by the military judge:

Sheet 12B:¹¹⁵ His Excellency, the measure of law, Halil Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that it is required that the inheritance of Kara Sait Ağa, who previously died while being a resident of Sofia, the head of the Deynugan pasture, is to be recorded. Since

¹¹³ R6.

¹¹⁴ This term refers to senior officers or officials in the military. Bayerle, *Pashas*, p. 2.

¹¹⁵ S21.

the aforesaid case is a special case involving the army, it has been transferred and handed over to you. You should send us with the *Çukhadar*¹¹⁶ Kara Mehmet who has been appointed, the inheritance of the diseased, and the customary taxes, [and] the expenditure of the title deed (*senedat*) along with the signed and stamped register. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Osman, Military judge of Rumili.

In the following document, we see the military judge requesting from the qadi that he warns the qassams to execute their duties carefully:

Sheet 3A:¹¹⁷ His Excellency, the virtuous, the affectionate Effendi...,

With the offering of many prayers and many purified salutations...our affection/desire is that since the *Rumeli Sadâreti* (director of military judge of Rumili) was granted to us by his kindness, the exalted Sultan (*avâtîfî âliyye'yi şâhâne*) and the exalted renowned King (*avârîfî seniyye'yi melûkâne*) from the beginning of Recep al-Fard of this year 1214/29.11.1799, the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province Sofia, which is in your administration, have been transferred and handed over to your virtuous majesty from the beginning of the aforementioned [month]. I sincerely expect that you warn the qassams to pay full attention and to make full effort to write down and to mark the inheritance of the diseased soldiers, which takes place in the aforesaid province, and to divide and to distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the share which the powerful and wise Allah prescribed. May your honour endure.

From the affectionate friends, İbrahim İsmet,

Military judge of Rumili.

In the following document, we see a naib appointing a qassam and informing the administrative authorities of his appointment:

116 *Çukhadar* refers to one of the five "Zülüflü Aghas" of the Has Oda of the Topkapı Palace in charge of Sultan's outer garments. It also means a servant of the court. However, there is not much information about their functions and duties. Jennings, "Qadi", p. 153; Bayerle, *Pashas*, p. 32.

117 S311/9.

Sheet 49B:¹¹⁸ The pride of the eminent and the peers...the prosperous Ağa,¹¹⁹ the revered,

After greetings, it is an official memorandum that [the shari'a affairs of] the province Vidin are at my disposal in accordance with the *niyâbet* (deputyship). A naib has been sent to the aforesaid province [to deal with the] the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army which were transferred to me. It is required that he writes down and marks the inheritance of the little boys and girls and of the absent men and women (*gâib ve gâibe*) and that you have him divided and distributed it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Ahmet Nazif, appointed as a naib to the Vidin province.

Lastly, it is to be noted that some naibs were given the power by the qadis to deal with the inheritance of not only *askeri* class but also ordinary people. The following represents an example of such an authorisation:

Sheet 2A/5:¹²⁰ His Excellency, the measure of law, the pride of the judges, Mevlana Hafız Ali Effendi, the prosperous, may your success endure,

After good greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to you to take over as deputy [judge] from the beginning of the month Jumad al-Ula of this year 1231/30.03.1816. It is required that you, as deputy [judge], assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the aforementioned [month], and that you make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a Muhammadiyya among the inhabitants, and that you write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and of *belediye*¹²¹ and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Havvalzâde Mehmet Emin, judge in the province Ruscuk.

118 S66.

119 A note on the same sheet indicates that the ağa was the Vizier Asif Nazir Celaleddin Pasha.

120 R 13. See also R15, 48A/1; R39, 13B/1.

121 For Belediye, see Ortaylı, İ. 'Belediye', *TDVİA*, vol. 5, pp. 388-402; Lewis, B. 'Baladiyya', *EP*, vol. 1, pp. 972-975.

1.4.2 Appointment of Scribes

The documents indicate that some scribes were appointed by the qadis or naibs. For example, the following entry indicates that a naib sent a correspondence to the head scribe, informing him of the appointment of a clerk to the law court by himself. This signifies that the qadi or the naib was the director of the court and had the authority to appoint some servants of the court. However, the important functionaries such as head scribe were to be appointed by the *berât* of the Sultan or the Grand Vizier as indicated by the second document given below.

1: **Sheet 41A:**¹²² His Excellency, the head scribe in the law court of Vidin, Mevlana Halil Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the reason for this correspondence is that Muftizâde Seyyid Hasan Effendi, who is from the capable experts, is an honest man and is able to do the functions of a scribe in all respects. [This] correspondence has been written and sent [to you]...it is required that when he [Hasan Effendi] arrives from the exalted İstanbul (*astâne-i âliyye*), you employ the aforesaid Hasan Effendi as a scribe like the other scribes in the aforesaid law court. With cordial greetings. At the end of Muharram 1203/31.10.1788.

Correspondence by the poor, Ahmet Nuri, Naib in the protected Vidin province

2: **Sheet 4B/1:**¹²³ His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and the reverend judges, the judge of Vidin, Mevlana Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that [since] Halil Effendi has been appointed as head scribe to the law court of the protected Vidin by the exalted honourable *berât*, this correspondence, that he is to be employed in the service of head secretary office in the aforesaid law court in accordance with the exalted *berât*, has been written and sent. It is required that you employ the aforesaid Halil Effendi in the aforesaid service in the

¹²² S59.

¹²³ S310.

aforesaid law court in accordance with the written [correspondence]. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid İbrahim, Military judge of Rumili.

1.4.3 Appointment of Madrasa Directors

It is to be underlined that the registers contain a wide variety of correspondences. One of which is about the appointment of a certain Şemseddin Effendi as a director to the madrasa named Mehmet Pasha. The statement 'the honourable illustrious *berât*' indicates that the approval of the Sultan or the Grand Vizier was obtained for the appointment. The style of writing is quite different from that of the appointment of the judges. The statement '*tavfiz*/transfer' was replaced with the statement '*tavsiye*/recommended'. Furthermore, the statement '*it is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province and that you enforce the judgments of the shari'a and that you write down and mark the inheritance of the diseased soldiers, which takes place, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia*' was replaced with that of the following: '*It is required that you have the disposal of the aforesaid medrese after its time has come, and that you act in accordance with the protocol of education and the requirement of the service period and of the honourable illustrious berât*'.

Sheet 61A:¹²⁴ The pride of the professors, Mevlana Şemseddin Effendi, the prosperous,

With the offering of pure greetings and many salutations, it is an official memorandum that the madrasa of Mehmet Pasha [located] in Sofia, has been recommended to you with daily 60 akçes and for [only] three months from the 24th day of Dhulqa'da of this year 1021/16.01.1613. It is required that you have the disposal of the aforesaid madrasa after its time has come, and that you act in accordance with the protocol of education and the requirement of the service period and of the honourable illustrious *berât* which has been issued. With cordial greetings.

The poor Abdulaziz, Military judge of Rumili.
Arrived towards the end of Safar al-Khayr in the year 1021?/May 1612.

1.4.4 Titles of the Qadis and the Naibs

An examination of the registers indicates that the term qadi was loosely used for the ones who had the judicial title but did not necessarily serve in the court. The ones who served in the court was called '*Mutasarrıf*'.¹²⁵ Some naibs called themselves '*Müvellâ hilâfeten*/appointed as substitute or *müvellâ*/appointed for short,¹²⁶ in order to indicate that they were serving on behalf of the title holder or appointed qadi.

The qadis used different adjectives to define themselves. The most common adjective was '*fakir*/the poor'. However, some used the term '*muhlis*' or '*muhıbb*' which meant 'sincere' or 'lovely, affectionate, dear' respectively. Depending on the relationship between the military judge and the qadi or between the qadi and his naib,¹²⁷ addressing statemens were prolonged or shortened.¹²⁸ For example, the famous Mehmet Zihni Effendi was addressed as '*Umdetü'l-mevâli'l-fihâm, Faziletlü Mehmet Zihni Effendi huzûru şeriflerine*/Pillar among the illustrious *Mevâlis*, Virtuous Mehmet Zihni Effendi,¹²⁹ to his esteemed presence'.¹³⁰ The following also was a similar form of addressing: 'The enforcer of the virtue, the follower of the shari'a, the pride of the professors, Haşir Effendi, the prosperous'.¹³¹ However, the most common form of addressing was the following: 'His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Effendi, the prosperous'.

¹²⁵ Örenç, A. E., '*Mutasarrıf*' *TDVİA*, vol. 31, p. 377.

¹²⁶ See the register numbered S59. For more see, Pakalın, *Tarih Deyimleri*, vol. 2, p. 640; Sami, Ş. *Kamusu Türkî*, (İstanbul: Çağrı Yayınları, 1987), p. 1433.

¹²⁷ R27 indicates that the adjectives shortened or prolonged when the military judge was replaced. The same addressing style is used by the same military judge.

¹²⁸ Ortaylı states that the qadis were addressed with the following adjectives: 'Paragon among the Muslim judges, pillar of Vâlis of mankind, who distinguishes lawful from unlawful', and the holders of the title of *Mevleviyet*: 'Mevlana, may his honour endure'. Ortaylı, '*Kadı*', *TDVİA*, vol. 24, p. 73.

¹²⁹ Zihni efendi served 13 months (between 1 Rabi al-Awwal 1274/20.10.1857 and at the end of Rabi al-Awwal 1275/07.11.1858) in the court recording the cases between the sheets 100-151.

¹³⁰ R26, 100B/1.

¹³¹ S26, 56A.

1.4.5 Introduction by the Qadi or the Naib

There are several documents in which the qadi or the naib started his service by writing an introduction. The following is an example:

Sheet 257B/1:¹³² With the name of the most Holy, and may his name be exalted, giving praise and glory to Allah and May Allah bless his Messenger, and Grant him salvation, afterwards, this is a register and a new chart, I took it in order to write on it legal documents (*sukûk*) and legal instruments (*vesika*). This is because of a need to protect the properties and to end the disputes among the inhabitants, at the time of the deputyship (*niyâbet*) of the slave who requires the kindness of Munificent and *Mücib* (who answers), [Allah], Tahsin Bekirzâde Seyyid İbrahim Necip, who is appointed as substitute, to the protected Ruscuk, may Allah make our affairs suitable to the shari'a and to the right. Allah is asked for keeping [us] on the shari'a of the Messenger. Amen. 20 Rabi al-Akhir [12]98/30.03.1881.

The following is another example of an introduction by a naib. This is interesting as the naib starts with the name Hüseyin, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammed, who was horrendously and awfully killed by the soldiers of Yazid in Karbala on 10 October 680 and his body was mutilated.¹³³

Sheet 4:¹³⁴ O my God!, for the sake of Hüseyin, and his brother and his grandfather and his mother and his father...¹³⁵

It deserves mentioning that some judges clearly stated that they followed the principles of the Hanafi law school in their decisions. The following represents an example:

¹³² The transcription is as follows (R33): 'Bismih-i Sübhâneh-ü ve Teâlâ hâmiden ve 'alâ rasûlih-i musalliyen ve müsellimen ve bâ'd, fe hâzih-i ceridetün ve haritatün cedidetün, ittehaztû li en yektûbe fih-â es-sukûk-e ve'l-vesâik-a li mâssî'l-hâcet-i ilâ sıyâneti'l-emvâl-i ve kat'î'l-münâza'ât-i beyne'l-halâik-ı fi zemen-i niyâbeti'l-abd-i el-mütefekkr-i ilâ lutf-i kerimi'l-mücib, Tahsin Bekir zâde Seyyid İbrahim Necip, el-müvellâ hılâfeten bi mahrûsa-i Ruscuk, ca'alellah-ü umûrana muvâfikan li ş-şer'i ve ş-savâb-i, ve'llah'ül-mesûl en yüsbit-e alâ şer'ati'r-rasûl, Âmin. 20 Rebiü'l-âhir 98.'

¹³³ Ünlü N., *İslam Tarihi I (Başlangıçtan Osmanlılara Kadar)*, (İstanbul: Marmara Üniversitesi, İlahiyat Fakültesi Vakfı Yayınları, 1992), pp.170-173.

¹³⁴ R9.

¹³⁵ The transcription is as follows: 'Allahümme bi-hakk-ı Hüseyin'in ve akhihi ve ceddihi ve ümmihi ve ebihî...'

Sheet 23B:¹³⁶...This is a fine book and sound register which contains legal documents and copies drawn in accordance with the Hanafi school of law and traditions (*sunan*) of the shari'a.

1.4.6 Miscellaneous Documents

The registers provide valuable information about not only the legal history of the Ottoman Empire but also about its economic and social history and international relations. The following document may set an example on international relations of the Empire. In this document, it is clearly stated that the marriage between the subjects of the Ottoman Empire and of Persia was prohibited. The statement 'as in the past' indicates that this was the reiteration of a previous prohibition. On the question of why this document was issued, it is likely that there were some Ottoman subjects who were married to the nationals of Persia and the State wanted to put an end to it. It is also possible that this was simply issued in order to follow the similar previous decrees. This in turn indicates that the rivalry between the Ottomans and the Persians was still active towards the end of the 19th century and it well continued into the 20th century.¹³⁷

Sheet 202A/1:¹³⁸ A regulation about the continuation of the prohibition of marriage between the subjects of the Ottoman State and the subjects of Persia,

1. Article: The marriage between the subjects of the Ottoman State and the subjects of Persia is forbidden as in the past.¹³⁹

¹³⁶ The transcription is as follows (R 36): *Hâzih-i mecelletün cemiletün latîfetün ve ceridetün sahihatün cemiletün müstemiletün 'alâ hucecin şer'iyyetin ve sûretin mer'iyyetin 'alâ mezhebi'l-eimmeti'l-hanefiyyet-i ve süneni's-şeriat-i'*

¹³⁷ Olson, R. *Türkiye-İran İlişkileri (1979-2004)*, Acar, K. (tr.), (Ankara: Ebabil Yayıncılık, 2005); Görçün, Ö. F. 1979 *İran İslam Devrimi Sonrası Türkiye - İran İlişkileri*, (İstanbul: Beta Basım Yayın, 2008); Sinkaya, B. "Türkiye-İran İlişkilerinde Çatışma Noktaları ve Analizi", 4. *Türkiye-İran İlişkileri Sempozyumu 24 Eylül 2005 İstanbul*, (Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu, 2008).

¹³⁸ R33.

¹³⁹ This was robably recorded on 14 Dhulqa'da 1291/23.12.1874. This is the date of the other entries on the same sheet.

The last point to be raised here is that since the registers contain important correspondences, it is worth to examine each register in minute detail which is outside the scope of this study. The following document is an example of such correspondences. Here, we see the qadi demanding an explanation from the judicial authorities on the question of whether or not the punishment of retaliation is to be implemented if the victim has little children. This is because, in Islamic law, the punishment of retaliation cannot be executed unless it is demanded by the next kin of the murdered.¹⁴⁰ The question of whether or not the guardian of little children can demand retaliation is discussed by the jurists. While Abu Hanifa (d.150/767) has the opinion that the punishment is to be executed without delay, his two disciples Muhammad al-Shaibani (d.189/805) and Abu Yusuf (d.182/798) hold that it is to be postponed until the children reach puberty.¹⁴¹ The document below clearly states that the Ottoman judicial authorities preferred the option of the postponement of the punishment until the children reach adulthood, as there is a possibility that they may not demand retaliation and so the murderer can get rid of this punishment. However, the murderer still faces monetary fine called *diya* unless the next of kin decides to waive it by forgiving him/her.¹⁴²

Sheet 78A/2:¹⁴³ To the law court of Ruscuk

The execution of the punishment of retaliation of the killer whose type of murder required retaliation belongs to his Excellency, the Sultan of the Muslims. It is legal either to wait until the children reach their adulthood or execute the punishment while the guardians of children [of the murdered]

140 For more, see Çiğdem, R., "The Judicial Registers of The Bakchesaray/Crimea Law Court: A Study of Murder Crimes", *Hamdard Islamicus*, 28/4, (2005), pp. 41-53.

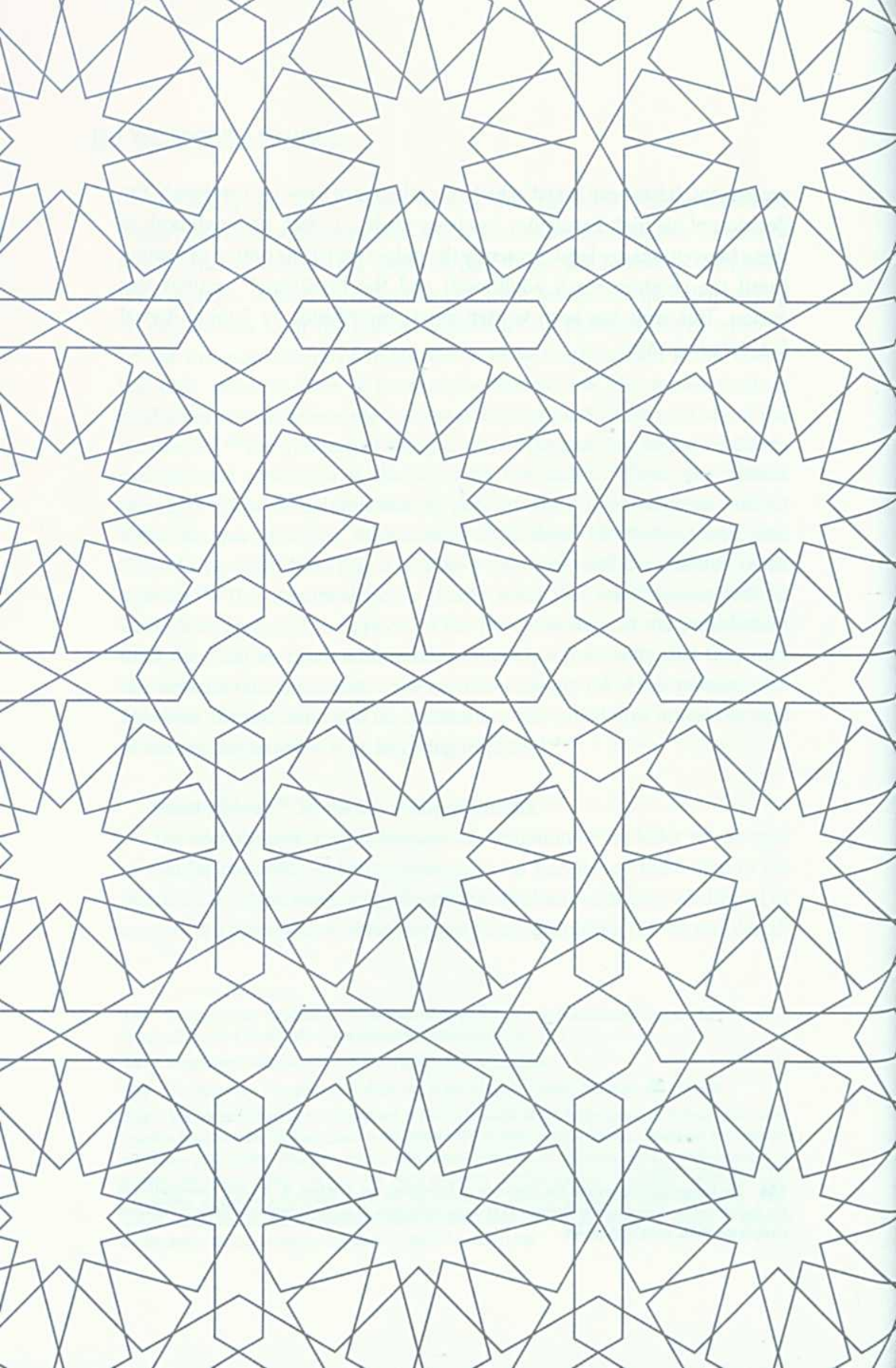
141 Marghinani, *Hidaya*, vol. 4, p.162; Halabi, *Multaqa*, p. 460.

142 For more see, Marghinani, *Hidaya*, vol. 4, pp. 158-173; Halabi, *Multaqa*, pp. 458-466.

143 The transcription of the document is (R31): 'Ruscuk Niyabeti Şer'iyyesi'ne: Evliyâsı hâzır olup, müceb-i kısâs olan katl ile katl olunanın berâtının istifâ-yı kısâs-ı, şer'an Sultân-ı Müslimîn Hazretleri'ne ait olduğu gibi, sığârın bulûğuna intizâr dâhi meşrû olduğundan, şıkkayn-i mezkûreynden hangisi ile amelin evlâ olduğu istifsâr-ı re'yine dâir vârid olanların, tahrîrât-ı âliyyeyi fâzılanları mütâlaa...oldu. Fi'l-hakika, şıkkayn-i mezkûreynin ikiside meşrû ise de, el-hâlet-ü hâzih-i, kudât tarafından şıkk-ı intizâr ihtiyâr kılınmakla Fetvâpenâhice dâhi ol sûret tasdik olunmakda olduğunun işâreti ile terkîm-i cevâbnâme'ye ibtidâr kılınmıştır efendim. 17 Rebiü'l-evvel [12]89.'

are present. It has been asked ‘which one is better of these two options?’. The decision of his high Excellency has been made...In fact, although both of these two options are legal, presently the judges prefer the option of waiting [until the children reach adulthood] and the Fetvâhâne¹⁴⁴ ratifies this option. This reply has been written down, my Effendi. 17 Rabi al-Awwal [12]89/20.05.1872.

144 For the establishment and the functions of Fetvâhâne, see, Cigdem, R. *A Legal Examination of the Register of the Law Court of İstanbul 1321-1324/1903-1906*, (Şanlıurfa: Şanlıurfa İlahiyat Fakültesi Geliştirme Vakfı, 2005), pp. 96-98.



Chapter 2

Muslim Minority Courts

2.1 Introduction: Shari'a Courts Before 1878

In this chapter, an outline of the structure of the Muslim judiciary in the independence period of Bulgaria will be given. The extent of the power of the Shari'a courts will also be highlighted. Before the establishment of autonomous principality/government, the Shari'a courts functioned as they did in other parts of the Ottoman Empire. With the establishment of the autonomous principality, the system began to change and their powers were circumscribed and they were limited to deal almost only with family quarrels. In fact, this is very similar in the developments in the mainland of the Empire. This is due to the fact that with the beginning of the 19th century, the Ottoman legal system went through intensive changes and the Shari'a courts lost most of their legal powers.¹⁴⁵ However, the Shari'a courts in Bulgaria continued to exist until 1945,¹⁴⁶ while they were abolished in Turkey in 1924.

2.2 Shari'a Courts between 1880-1909

With the establishment of the autonomous government in Bulgaria, the Shari'a courts were separated from the judiciary and were incorporated into the muftuluk (the Directorate of Mufti). With the enactment of the 'Temporary Regulation about the Religious Administration of the Various Religious Groups' on 2 July 1880, muftis¹⁴⁷ were given the power to hear

¹⁴⁵ For more on this see, Cigdem, *The Register of the Law Court of İstanbul 1321-1324/1903-1906*, pp. 58-60.

¹⁴⁶ After the revolution of 8 September 1944, Bulgaria adopted communist regime and abolished the shari'a courts in 1945.

¹⁴⁷ The article 32 of this regulation required that the muftis had an *icâzetnâme* (diploma) or a

and settle the limited legal problems of Muslims.¹⁴⁸ Günay states that Berlin agreement and the Tırnova constitution guaranteed that the religious minorities had access to their religious authorities.¹⁴⁹

The subject matters for the jurisdiction of the Shari'a courts was clarified by the article 1222 of the Civil Procedure Code enacted by the Bulgarian parliament on 11 December 1891 and became the law of the country in 1892. The article 1223 of this code entitled the adult disputants to take their cases to the secular courts if they wish to do so.

2.3 Shari'a Courts between 1909-1945

When Bulgaria declared independence in 1908, an agreement called the İstanbul Protocol was signed on 19 April 1909, which contained provisions regarding the muftuluk.¹⁵⁰ Another protocol called the 'İstanbul Treaty' was signed on 29 September 1913 which also contained an agreement regarding the muftuluk. The first provision of this agreement called 'Agreement regarding the Muftis' required that the Head Mufti who deals with the religious and legal matters of Muslims be elected by the Muftis of Bulgaria and that he be given an appointment decree (*menşûr*) by the *Meşîhât* in İstanbul. This indicates that the Ottoman authorities wanted to keep the relations between the muftis of Bulgaria and the *Meşîhât* active. An important stipulation in this agreement was the provision 7, which required that a law school called *nuvvâb*¹⁵¹ for training judges be opened.¹⁵²

In 1919, 'Regulation about the Structure and the Administration of the Muslim Religious Institutions' was issued. This is the first regulation which

menşûr (appointment decree) issued by the Sheikh al-Islam in İstanbul to work in that capacity. Günay, H. M. *Osmanlı Sonrası Bulgaristan Türklerinin Dini Yönetimi ve Özel Yargı Teşkilatı 1878-1945*, (İstanbul: Rumeli Araştırmaları Merkezi Yayınları, 2006), p. 74.

148 Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, pp.73-74.

149 Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, p. 74.

150 For more see, Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, pp. 79-80.

151 *Nuvvâb* is the plural of *naib* which means substitute or substitute judge. Here, it means judge. Bayerle, *Pashas*, p. 117; İpşirli, 'Naib', *TDVİA*, vol. 32, pp. 312-313.

152 For more on the school of *Nuvvâb*, see Canbazov, İ. *Medresetü'n-Nüvvab: Amılar-Belgeler*, (Sofya: Ahmed Davudoğlu Dostluk ve Kardeşlik Vakfı, 2005); Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, pp.61-63; Vedat, S. A. *Medresetü'n-Nüvvâb ve Eğitim Sistemi*, Graduation thesis, (Sofia Higher Islamic Institute, 2001). A copy of this dissertation was kindly provided to me by its author Vedat Ahmet.

deals with the Shari'a courts in detail. The seventh section of this regulation (articles 131-168) is fully attributed to the Shari'a courts. Other sections also contain provisions related to the Shari'a courts. For example, article 81 states that the religious authorities other than the mufti and the mufti naib are not entitled to hear the legal cases. The muftis and the mufti naibs were held liable to the penal law and the civil servants law should they breach the regulation.¹⁵³

This regulation pays lip service to the *Meşihât* by entitling the muftuluk to ask for *fetvâ* (legal opinion) should a necessity arise.¹⁵⁴ It goes without saying that the relations between the muftuluk and the *Meşihât* had already started to diminish by then. It is worth mentioning that the Head Muftuluk issued a regulation in 1926 regarding the marriage and divorce issues. Günay claims that it was based on the *Hukuk-i Aile Kararnâmesi* (Family Law Code)¹⁵⁵ of the Ottoman Empire which was issued in 1917.¹⁵⁶ Günay states that with a new Code of Civil Procedure which came into force on 1 April 1930, Bulgarian authorities tried to abolish the Shari'a courts¹⁵⁷ on the ground that the *khilâfet*¹⁵⁸ and the Shari'a courts were abolished in Turkey.¹⁵⁹ However, with the political and social pressures, they abandoned their decision and kept the Shari'a courts functioning.¹⁶⁰

In 1938, the powers of the Shari'a courts were further circumscribed. Their power of hearing the cases related to inheritance, legacy, and guardianship was stripped off. They were limited to hear only marriage and divorce disputes.¹⁶¹ Günay states that when the civil marriage act was put

¹⁵³ Article, 183.

¹⁵⁴ Article 159.

¹⁵⁵ For more see, Aydın, M. A., *İslam-Osmanlı Aile Hukuku*, (İstanbul: Marmara Üniversitesi İlahiyat Fakültesi, 1985).

¹⁵⁶ Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, p. 83.

¹⁵⁷ For a dispute between the religious and secular Turks about the abolition of the Shari'a courts, see Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, pp. 86-107.

¹⁵⁸ For more on the Caliphate, see Cigdem, R., *Some Juristic Theories About The Imamate/Caliphate: The Head of The Government*, Unpublished MA Thesis, (The University of Manchester, 1997).

¹⁵⁹ Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, p.85.

¹⁶⁰ Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, pp. 91-92 (see also footnote 68).

¹⁶¹ Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, p. 106.

into force on 12 May 1945, the Shari'a courts lost the rest of their remaining powers. In other words, the functions of the Shari'a courts came to an end, though they were not officially closed.¹⁶²

2.4 The Structure of Shari'a Courts

In this part, the structure of the Shari'a courts as they appear in the regulation dated 1919 is given. The question of whether this system had any chance of practice is another matter and requires a separate study which is outside the scope of this work.¹⁶³

2.4.1 The First Instance Shari'a Court

According to the article 134 of this regulation (1919), each office of mufti and mufti naib had to have a First Instance Shari'a Court. The cases were to be heard by the mufti or the mufti naib.¹⁶⁴

2.4.2 The Court of Appeal (Istinâf) ¹⁶⁵

According to this regulation, Sofia, Ruscuk and Filibe had the Shari'a Appeal Courts headed by one mufti/judge. The appeal courts were to examine the cases and resolve the disputes. Having done so, the files were to be sent back to the judge who initially had heard the case so that it can be executed in accordance with the article 1225 of the Code of Civil Procedure. The judges were not allowed to review the whole case, if the defendant or the litigant appealed against a certain point. On the other hand, the judges were obliged to specify the points which they had ratified or had quashed.¹⁶⁶ The judges of the Shari'a courts were required to follow the explanations and the comments of the Appeal Court on the shari'a law.¹⁶⁷ Günay states that

¹⁶² Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, p. 107; See also Keskiöğlu, O., *Bulgaristan'da Türkler*, (Ankara: Kültür Bakanlığı, 1985).

¹⁶³ For more see, Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, pp. 113-116.

¹⁶⁴ Article, 135.

¹⁶⁵ The cases were to be reviewed by the *Meşhât* in İstanbul in the case of necessity between 1880-1909. 1913 Regulation, article, 5; Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, p. 110.

¹⁶⁶ Articles 137-138, 145-146, 151-152.

¹⁶⁷ Article, 158.

in practice, the Shari'a Courts of Appeal were never established. The cases were examined by the head muftuluk.¹⁶⁸

2.4.3 The High Shari'a Court

According to the article 140 of this regulation, the Head Mufti Office in Sofia had to have the High Shari'a Court. Three qualified judges were the members of this court. The Head Mufti was one of them and was the chief of the court. In the absence of the Head Mufti, the court was to be headed by his naib if he is qualified, otherwise the oldest member of the court was to lead the court. They were entitled to review the cases on legal basis, that is to say, they were to examine the cases to find out whether or not the principles of the shari'a were applied to the case. Furthermore, they were entitled to examine¹⁶⁹ the divorce related judgments of the lower courts.¹⁷⁰ The judges of the High Shari'a Court were entitled to ratify or quash the verdicts of the judges of the First Instance Shari'a Court and of the Court of Appeal. If the verdict was quashed, the case was to be transferred to the nearest court at the same level so that it can be re-examined.¹⁷¹

2.4.4 The High General Assembly

This assembly was composed of five members, three of whom were the members of the High Shari'a Court and two of whom were the shari'a judges appointed by the Foreign and Madhahib Ministry. They were entitled to review the cases which were twice appealed on the same grounds. To put it simply, article 155 of the regulation states that if a first decision of a judge is quashed, and the litigants appeal against the second decision of the judge on the same grounds, the case is to be revived by the general assembly. The

¹⁶⁸ Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, pp. 148-150.

¹⁶⁹ Article, 144.

¹⁷⁰ Günay gives this as *faskh-i nikah* (abrogation of the marriage). The translation which was provided to us gives it as divorce/*talaq*. Since we do not have the original document, we are not able to verify which translation is true. However, it is likely that it was divorce, as our examination of the registers shows that the number of the disputes related to the *faskh-i nikah* is fewer than that of the *talaq*. Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, p. 112.

¹⁷¹ Articles, 153-154.

decision of this assembly was binding and the appeal court was required to follow it.¹⁷²

2.4.5 The Fetvâhâne/Meşîhât

The article 159 of this regulation states that if it emerges that the majority of the members of the High Shari'a Court have not understood a principle of the shari'a law while examining a case, the Office of the Head Mufti may demand a *fetvâ* or explanation from the fetvâhâne of the Sheikh al-Islam. This indicates that the Meşîhât was only to be contacted in exceptional legal issues.

2.5 Relations between the Shari'a and the Secular Courts

The article 158 explicitly states that the religious courts need to follow the comments of the High Appeal Court on secular laws. This means that if a legal problem arises on the point of secular laws in a religious court, the religious court may demand an explanation from the High Appeal Court or if an explanation was already made, the religious courts were to follow it. The decisions of the judges of the Shari'a courts were to be enforced by the secular courts. The article 161 clearly states that the rulings of the Shari'a courts are to be executed by the judges of the *sancak* (district) courts.¹⁷³

2.6 Members of the Shari'a Courts

2.6.1 Judges

The qualifications of the judges depended on the court in which they were to serve.

A: The Court of First Instance

The muftis or mufti naibs who were to serve as judges of these lower

¹⁷² Article, 156.

¹⁷³ Günay states that the secular courts examined the cases on the point of authority. If they decide that the case was seen by an unauthorised shari'a court they did not issue the judgement of execution and so the case was not executed. Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, p. 128.

courts needed to have the following qualifications:¹⁷⁴

a: They must have not been condemned to a punishment; must have not been barred from civil and political rights; must have not been under investigation.

b: They must have been a citizen of the Bulgarian state; they had to know the official language and how to read and write in that language.¹⁷⁵

c: They must possess good morality (they establish this with a document obtained from the municipality in which they reside).

d: They must have esteem, dignity and confidence among fellow believers (they establish this with a document obtained from the council of the religious community).

e: They must not have psychological or contagious diseases (they establish this with a document obtained from a State doctor).

f: They must have completed the age of 30.

g: They must have a diploma from the *nuvvâb* school or must have passed an exam¹⁷⁶ held by the High Shari'a Court.

The muftis who had these qualifications were entitled to hold these positions; otherwise they were to be replaced by the qualified ones. The muftis who had served for at least four years and the mufti naibs who had served for at least six years were exempted from the exams.¹⁷⁷

B: The Court of Appeal

The law is silent about the qualifications of the judges of this court. However, since it were the muftis who were to serve in this court of appeal,

¹⁷⁴ Articles, 98, 134.

¹⁷⁵ Günay quotes Hafız Hasan Sani and Mehmet Celil that the huccets and the ilams were written in the Bulgarian language except for a few courts. Our examination of the registers does not corroborate this observation. This also contradicts the regulation issued in 1919 (article 6), which requires that the entries be written in Turkish and its translation into Bulgarian language be attached. Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, pp. 79, 81.

¹⁷⁶ The article 99 states that the candidates need to pass a written exam in the following subjects: 1-Durar, 2-Mecelle, 3-Inheritance, 4-Marriage and divorce, 5-Basic principles of the civil and the shari'a laws, 6-The procedure of official and legal correspondence. It also requires that a representative of the Foreign and Madhahib Ministry be present in the exam.

¹⁷⁷ Article, 98.

they needed to carry the qualifications mentioned above. The article 138 explicitly states that the muftis were to be appointed to this court upon a report by the Foreign and Madhab Ministry after the decision of the Head Mufti had been obtained.¹⁷⁸

C: The High Shari'a Court

The judges of this court needed to carry the qualifications of the judges of the first instance Shari'a courts. In addition, they had to have a diploma from a law school. Until the ones with a law school diploma emerged, other muftis, who satisfied the (a) and (b) of the article 98,¹⁷⁹ were allowed to serve as judges.¹⁸⁰ This court was to comprise three judges, one of whom was the Head Mufti. The other two were to be appointed from the muftis upon a report by the Foreign and Madhab Ministry after the decision of the head mufti had been obtained.¹⁸¹

2.6.2 The Clerks and other Court Officers

The article 108 clearly states that the registers, correspondences and the financial issues of the muftuluk and the Shari'a courts were to be carried out by the secretary's office composed of a secretary, a clerk for the shari'a affairs, and a guard. In the absence of the mufti or the mufti naib, the clerk was entitled to administer the affairs.

2.6.3 Administrative Authorities

The article 184 states that the police and the public servants were to help the mufti and the mufti naib and the judges of Shari'a courts in the execution of their duties.

¹⁷⁸ Günay states that the appointment and the dismissal of the judges were open to political intervention. Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, p. 116.

¹⁷⁹ These are: a-[they] must have not been condemned to a punishment; must have not been barred from civil and political rights; must have not been under investigation. b-Must have been a citizen of Bulgarian state; must know the official language and must know to read and to write in that language.

¹⁸⁰ Article, 141.

¹⁸¹ Articles, 138, 140.

2.6.4 Lawyers

Although the lawyers were not official members of the courts, they were entitled to serve in the Shari'a courts. According to a note in the article 162, the muftis with five years service and the mufti naibs with that of seven years were entitled to work as lawyers.¹⁸²

2.7 The extent of the Power of the Shari'a Courts

As we have mentioned above, the powers of the Shari'a courts were circumscribed day by day during the independence period of Bulgaria. The article 1222 of the Civil Procedure Code which became the law of the country in 1892, states that the Shari'a courts were to hear only the following disputes:¹⁸³

- a: Personal and financial disputes between parents and their children,
- b: Personal and financial disputes between spouses,
- c: Disputes related to divorce, lineage, and invalid (*fâsid*) marriages,
- d: Disputes related to inheritance based on law and legacy.

According to the article 132 of the 1919 regulation, the cases which the Shari'a courts were entitled to review were enumerated as follows:

- a: Personal and property related cases between spouses,¹⁸⁴
- b: Personal and property related cases between parents and their children,
- c: Divorce related cases,
- d: Marriage and cancellation of marriage cases,
- e: Legality of lineage,

¹⁸² Written lawyership contracts or warrants of attorney were to be ratified by the notary public. On the other hand, oral contracts, which were to be accepted only by the Shari'a courts, were to be recorded to the registers. Article, 163.

¹⁸³ Günay states that although the muftis were authorised to hear inheritance and legacy related matters in accordance with the article 930-938 of the 'regulation about the temporary establishment of the law courts', the Bulgarian authorities abrogated this in 1885. However, they let them hear these cases upon the political pressures. He also states that the same problem emerged in 1889-1891, 1906. Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, pp. 75-6. See also Turan, Ö. *The Turkish minority in Bulgaria (1878-1908)*, (Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu, 1998).

¹⁸⁴ Mufti naibs were allowed to hear the financial disputes not exceeding 100 leva and Muftis with the limit of 1000 leva. Here, appeal was not available. Articles, 147-148.

f: Inheritance related cases based on laws or legacy.

Our examination of the registers shows that mostly family related disputes were brought to the attention of the minority Shari'a courts. These generally were: ¹⁸⁵

- a: Divorce,
- b: Divorce based on mutual consent (*muhâla'a*),
- c: Inheritance,
- d: Heredity (*verâset*),
- e: Declaration of maturity,
- f: Appointment of guardians,
- g: Maintenance,
- h: Agency (*vekâlet*),
- i: Reconciliation,
- j: *Waqf*,
- k: Sale.

2.8 Procedures of Adjudication and Appeal

In this part the main points of filing a lawsuit and the adjudication process in the Shari'a courts will be outlined. The process of the lawsuit starts once the petition is submitted to the court after being signed by the plaintiff and his lawyer and stamped. Afterwards, it is numbered by the court. A copy of the petition and its attachments are, then, sent to the defendant. Afterwards, the judge fixes a date for the judgment. In the first session, the judge gives the disputants one month to bring their evidence.¹⁸⁶ The judge offers them reconciliation, if they accept, the suit comes to an end. If they

¹⁸⁵ R46.

¹⁸⁶ They need to provide at least two male witnesses or one male and two female witnesses as Hanafi law requires. The integrity of the witnesses was also to be examined in accordance with the article 1716 of the Mecelle if it was challenged. It is worth mentioning that the provision 164 of the 1919 regulation states that the written monetary documents and the documents issued by the shari'a courts cannot be challenged by the witnesses. However, the judge is entitled to examine the documents according to the civil codes if their contents are challenged by either side. Marghinani, *Hidaya*, vol. 3, p. 117-118; Halabi, *Multaqa*, p. 300; Ibn Humam, *Fath al-Qadir*, vol. 7, pp. 291; Jennings, R. C. "Limitations of the Judicial Powers of the Qadi in 17th Century Ottoman Kayseri", *SI*, L (1979), p. 173 (footnote); Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, pp. 146-148.

do not accept, the judge proceeds with the case. Having heard the evidence, the judge asks whether they demand delay for further evidence. If one or both do so, the judge postpones the hearing and gives him/her another two weeks. In the new session, the judge hears the new evidence, and closes the session with his verdict.¹⁸⁷

When it comes to appeal, the process starts with the submission of appeal petition on time. In the 1919 regulation, the appeal duration was fixed as one month beginning with the correspondence of the decision of the judges to the contestants.¹⁸⁸ In 1926, the appeal time was fixed as fifteen days in maintenance cases and one month in other cases. It is set as sixty days, if the appellant demands that his case be reviewed by the *Meşihât* in İstanbul.¹⁸⁹ After formal examination of the petition, the court proceeds with the review of the substance of the case.¹⁹⁰

2.9 The Posts in the Shari'a Courts

Günay enumerates the posts of the muftis which show the establishment of the Shari'a courts in 1910 as:

- 1: Head mufti post: Sofia,
- 2: First class mufti posts: Filibe, Varna, Ruscuk, Şumnu,
- 3: Second class mufti posts: Silistre, Hezargrad, Plevne, Hasköy, Vidin, İslimye, Tırnova, Burgas, Virace, Eski Zağra,
- 4: First class mufti vekâlet-i posts: Dobriç, Yeni Pazar, Eski Cuma, Pravadi, Tatarpazarcık, Osman Pazarı, Tutragan, Balçık,
- 5: Second class mufti vekâlet-i posts: Praslav, Ziştevi, Kızanlık, Nikopol, Aydos, Balpınar, Lofça, Karlova, Selvi, Kurtpınar, Rahova, Peştera.¹⁹¹

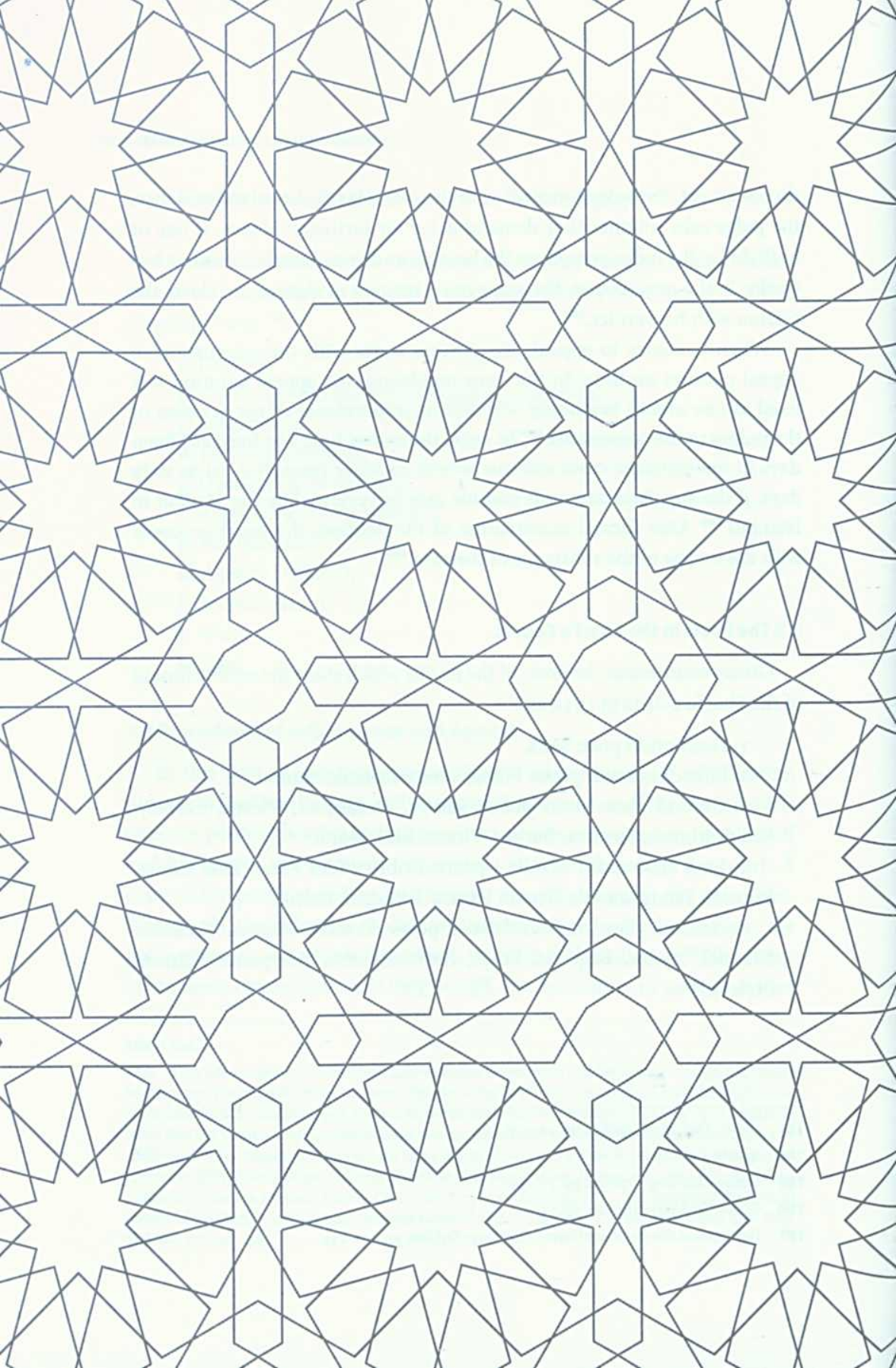
¹⁸⁷ Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, pp. 141-143.

¹⁸⁸ Article, 149.

¹⁸⁹ Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, pp. 150-151.

¹⁹⁰ Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, pp. 152.

¹⁹¹ For more on this posts, see Günay, *Özel Yargı Teşkilatı*, pp. 131-134.



Chapter 3

Description of the Registers

3.1 Introduction

The registers are identified in accordance with the catalogue number beginning with R1 and ending with D497. Afterwards, the name of the court is specified and Date of the Register is given. The number of the sheets and the measurement of the registers are also noted. Condition of the Registers as they presently appear is explicitly stated. The judges who served in the court and the military judges were also identified where possible. Afterwards, a breakdown of the content of the registers is given. Although great efforts are made to find out the precise number of cases in each register, there still remains a possibility that they might contain more or less cases than that appears in this work. If the registers contain decrees, *inhas* or correspondences about the appointment of the qadis or the naibs, they are quoted.

The service period of the qadis or the naibs is indicated in the light of the entries. When determining the employment period of a certain qadi, the dates mentioned in the documents are taken into account and the service of the qadi or the naib is considered uninterrupted until the appointment of the next qadi or naib with a new decree or a letter of appointment. However, further research is required in order to precisely determine a start and end date of employment of each qadi or naib. It is to be noted that the clerks did not always follow the chronology in recording the cases into the *sicil* scrolls. However, we followed the chronology when quoting the documents.

3.2 Details of the Registers

Library register number: R1

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the Register: Dhulhijja 1066-24 Safar 1067/September 1656-12.12.1656

The sheets and the measure: 41 Sheets, 41:14 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Şafizâde Ahmet Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 30B)¹⁹²

2: Mesut b. Mehmet, Naib (Sheet 1B)

Total Number of entries: 192 Entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 64 *Huccet*

b: 52 *Murasala*

c: 43 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

d: 33 *Ilam*

192 This indicates that the register has the signature and the stamp of the qadi or the naib on the sheets quoted. Here, the qadi, Şafizâde Ahmet Effendi, has his signature and the stamp affixed on the sheet numbered 30B.

Library register number: R2

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the Register: Dhulqa'da 1108-29 Shawwal 1109/May 1697-10.05.1698

The sheets and the measure: 122 Sheets, 39:14.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs: Sheikh Mehmet, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 46)

Military judge of Rumili: Seriri Mustafa, (sheet 60A)

Total Number of entries: 401 Entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

- a: 152 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*
- b: 100 *Huccet*
- c: 62 *Murasala*
- d: 51 *Ilam*
- e: 30 *Inheritance*
- f: 6 *Waqf*

Buyruldu of the military judge about the extension of the service period of the qadi is as follows:

Sheet 60A/2: The measure of law, the virtuous of the clerks, presently the judge of Ruscuk, Sheikh Mehmet Effendi, the prosperous,

With the offering of pure greetings and many salutations, it is an official memorandum that since Sheikh Mehmet, the judge of Ruscuk, had praiseworthy and good relations with the inhabitants of the aforesaid province, a Muhzir has brought a petition from the inhabitants [of the province] to the Imperial council. Upon their request, a firman has been issued that [his period of service] be extended. [His service period] has been extended for six months as conferred in the past. You should have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Shawwal of this year 1109/12.04.1698, for whole thirty months and you should enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants . With cordial greetings.

From the sincere friends, Seriri Mustafa, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: R3

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the Register: Rabi al-Awwal 1097-Safar 1100/January 1686 - November 1688

The sheets and the measure: 50 Sheets, 42:14.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: İsmail b. Muzaffer, Qadi (signature and stamp on the sheet 11A)
- 2: Sunullah Effendi, Naib (signature and stamp on the sheet 35B)

Total Number of entries: 243 Entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

- a: 95 *Huccet*
- b: 62 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*
- c: 53 *Murasala*
- d: 24 *Ilam*
- e: 9 Inheritance

Library register number: R4

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the Register: Shawwal 1106-Rabi al-Awwal 1108/May 1695-September 1696

The sheets and the measure: 120 Sheets, 42:14.5 cm

Condition of the Register: The sheets between 99-102 are torn

The qadis and/or naibs: Said b. Seyyid Mehmet, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 86A)

Total Number of entries: 562 Entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

c: 223 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

b: 198 *Huccet*

c: 73 *Murasala*

d: 33 *Inheritance*

e: 29 *Ilam*

f: 6 *Waqf*

Library register number: R5

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the Register: Ramadan 1120-Dhulhijja 1124/November 1708-December 1712

The sheets and the measure: 52 Sheets, 41.5:15 cm

Condition of the Register: Some sheets are stained

The qadis and/or naibs: Mehmet, (stamp on the sheet 12)

Total Number of entries: 199 Entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 86 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

b: 66 *Murasala*

c: 30 *Inheritance*

d: 16 *Huccet*

e: 1 *Ilam*

Library register number: R6

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the Register: 1149-1150/1736-1737

The sheets and the measure: 139 Sheets, 43:15 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Ömer, Qadi, (sheet 3B)
- 2: Arifi Hacı Ahmet, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 92B)

Military judge of Rumili:

- 1: Seyyid Mehmet, (sheet 3B)
- 2: Seyyid Zeynelabidin, (sheet 3B)

Total Number of entries: 402 Entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

- a: 162 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*
- b: 116 *Huccet*
- c: 54 *Murasala*
- d: 38 Inheritance
- e: 31 *Ilam*
- f: 1 *Waqf*

Buyruldu of the military judge about the appointment of a qadi:

Sheet 3B/2 (from the end of the register): His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Arifi Hacı Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Ömer, the judge of Ruscuk, will be deposed after completing his customary period [of service], from the beginning of Rabi al-Akhir of this year 1148/21.08.1735. Since you were dismissed from the province [Silistre] after a short service, suffering a loss (*mağdur*), you had a high Firman and an order from the Sheikh al-Islam (*işâret-i âliyye*) issued for the province of Ruscuk being conferred to you after Ömer. Since it is now 38 real and conventional (*itibâri*) months, since you have left your post in the province of Silistre, his [Ömer's] position has been conferred to you with a salary of daily 499 akçes, as you are from the honourable and the reverend judges and as you have the kind help of the Sultan. It is required that when the time has come,

you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province for the whole customary period and that you enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants . With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet, Military judge of Rumili.

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 3B/3: In the month Rabi al-Awwal, for the year 1148/July 1735,

Ömer, the judge of Ruscuk, will be deposed after completing his customary period [of service], from the beginning of the aforementioned month. Since he [Arifi Hacı Ahmet] was dismissed from the aforesaid province [Silistre] after a short service, suffering a loss (*mağdur*), he had a high Firman and an order from the Sheikh al-Islam issued for the province of Ruscuk being conferred to him after Ömer. Since it is now 38 real and conventional months, since he has left his post in the province Silistre, his [Ömer's] position has been conferred to well-wisher Mevlana Arifi Hacı Ahmet with a salary of daily 499 akçes, as he is from the honourable and the reverend judges, and as he has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Ruler of the World. After submission of his petition that when the time has come, he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province], for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge conferring a judicial post to a certain qadi upon the death of the serving judge:

Sheet 3B/4: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Hacı Arifi Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the death of Ömer, the judge of Ruscuk, has been confirmed with the news of reliable persons. Since he [Ahmet] was dismissed after a short service while he was having the disposal of the province of Silistre, suffering a loss, the aforesaid province province was conferred to him on the ground of an order from the Sheikh al-Islam and of a high Firman. His [Ömer's] position has been given to you as conferred in the past, from the end of Safar al-Khayr of this year 1149/09.07.1736, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge and as you are from the honourable and reverend judges, and as you

have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Ruler of the world. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Rabi al-Ula, for the whole customary period and that you enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants . With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Zeynelabidin, Military judge of Rumili.

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 4A/1: In the month Safar al-Khayr, for the year 1149/June 1736,

The death of Ömer, the judge of Ruscuk, has been confirmed with the news of reliable persons. Since he [Ahmet] was dismissed after a short service while he was having the disposal of the province of Silistre, suffering a loss, the aforesaid province was conferred to him on the ground of an order from the Sheikh al-Islam and of a high Firman. His [Ömer's] position has been given to well-wisher Arifi Hacı Ahmet, from the aforesaid month, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, he is from the honourable and the reverend judges, and he has the kind help of Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Ruler of the world. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province], from the beginning of the month Rabi al-Ula of the aforementioned year (10.07.1736), for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 4A/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Ruscuk, Mevlana Arifi Hacı Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you from the beginning of Rabi al-Ula of this year 1149/10.07.1736. It is required that after writing down and marking the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, which takes place in the aforesaid province, you divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Zeynelabidin, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: R7

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 11 Sha‘ban 1151-Dhulhijja 1152/24.11.1738-February 1740

The sheets and the measure: 133 Sheets, 43:16 cm

Condition of the register: Some sheets are torn

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Ebu Bekir, Qadi, (sheet 1B)

2: Mehmet Hayri, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 121B)

Military judge of Rumili: Ahmet Piri zâde, (sheet 1B)

Total Number of entries: 380 Entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 133 *Murasala*

b: 120 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

c: 57 *Huccet*

d: 53 Inheritance

e: 11 *Ilam*

f: 4 *Ma‘ruz*

g: 2 *Waqf*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 1B/3: In Jumad al-Ula, for the year 1151/August 1738,

Ebu Bekir, the judge of Ruscuk, will be deposed from the end of the next month. His position has been given to well-wisher Mevlana Mehmet, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, he is from the honourable and reverend judges, and he has the kind help of the Sultan. After submission of the petition that he has the disposal of [the shari‘a affairs of the aforesaid province], from the beginning of Recep al-Fard of the aforementioned year (15.10.1738), for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 1B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Mehmet Effendi, the prosperous,

With the offering of appropriate greetings, it is an official memorandum

that Ebu Bekir, the judge of Ruscuk, will be deposed from the end of Jumad al-Akhir of this year 1151/14.10.1738. His position has been given to you, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, you are from the honourable and reverend judges, and you have the kind help of the Sultan. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Recep al-Fard of the aforementioned [year] (15.10.1738) for the whole customary period and that you enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants .With cordial greetings.

The poor, Ahmet Pirizâde, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 1B/4: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Mehmet Effendi, the prosperous,

With the offering of appropriate greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Ruscuk, which is at my disposal, have been transferred to you from the beginning of Recep al-Fard of this year 1151/15.10.1738. It is required that you pay careful attention to write down and mark the estates of the deceased soldiers which are passed by inheritance and to divide and distribute them among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Ahmet Pirizâde, Military judge of Rumili.

kjm

Library register number: R8

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: Sha'ban 1192-Ramadan 1193/August 1778-September 1779

The sheets and the measure: 101 Sheets, 42:15 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Hacı Mehmet, Qadi, (sheet 4B)
- 2: Mehmet Emin, Qadi, (sheet 4B)
- 3: Hıfzı Abdurrahman, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 17)
- 4: Hacı Hüseyin, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 73A)
- 5: Abdurrahman, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 86B)

Military judge of Rumili:

- 1: Damad zâde Mehmet Murat, (sheet 4B)
- 2: Dürri zâde Mehmet Nurullah, (sheet 99B)

Total Number of entries: 352 Entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

- a: 141 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*
- b: 91 *Murasala*
- c: 83 *Huccet*
- d: 29 *Inheritance*
- e: 8 *Ilam*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 4B/4: In the month Muharram al-Haram, for the year 1192/January 1778,

Mehmet Emin, the judge of Ruscuk, will be deposed from the end of the next month. His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Hacı Mehmet, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, he is from the honourable and reverend judges and he has the kind help of Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province], from the beginning of Rabi al-Ula of the aforementioned year (30.03.1778), for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 4B/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and the reverend judges, Mevlana Hacı Mehmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Mehmet Emin, the judge of Ruscuk, will be deposed from the end of Safar al-khayr of this year 11[9]2/29.03.1778. His position has been given to you as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge and you have the kind help of Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Rabi al-Ula of the aforementioned year (30.03.1778) for the whole customary period and that you enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants . With cordial greetings.

The poor, Damadzâde Mehmet Murat, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 4B/4: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and reverend judges, the judge of Ruscuk, Mevlana Hacı Mehmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you from the beginning of Rabi al-Ula of this year 1192/30.03.1778. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of deceased soldiers, which takes place in the aforesaid province and divide and distribute them among the inheritors in accordance with the share which Allah, may his name be exalted, prescribed. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Damadzâde Mehmet Murat, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance of a certain *ağa*:

Sheet 81A/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, the honourable naib of Zîştovi, Mevlana Hafız Abdurrahman Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that since the writing

of the inheritance of Kethuda¹⁹³ Pirizâde Süleyman Ağâ, who previously died in the province of Ruscuk, located in the suburbs of İdil is among the special subjects, the writing of his inheritance and hearing of the related law suits have been transferred and handed over to you. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of the aforesaid deceased [Süleyman] and divide and distribute them among the inheritors in accordance with the share of shari'a and that you hear the related lawsuits and send us the collected tax and the fee for the division and stamped huccets. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid İbrahim, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 99B/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Ruscuk, from the honourable and the reverend judges, Mevlana Hacı Mehmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you, from the beginning of Rabi al-Ula of this year 1193/19.03.1779. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, which takes place in the aforesaid province and require registration and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the share of shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Dürriyâde Mehmet Nurullah, Military judge of Rumili.

¹⁹³ Bayerle defines Kethuda as 'an unauthorized deputy' in the Ottoman administration. The term could also refer to leaders of specified units who were deputized to act as commanders. Finally, men of substance all had personal kethudas to manage their households. Jennings states that "it is not clear whether the kethuda was an independent officer...or whether he just acted in place of an absent sancak begi...[or] whether the office was permanent or temporary." Bayerle, *Pashas*, p. 96; Jennings, "Qadi", p. 168.

Library register number: R9

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: Jumad al-Akhira 1200-Dhulhijja 1200/April 1786-September 1786

The sheets and the measure: 20 Sheets, 50:18 cm

Condition of the register: Some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Hüseyin Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 2A)

2: Ali Hıfzı Effendi, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 2A)

Military judge of Rumili: Mehmet Sadık, (sheet 2A)

Total Number of entries: 118 Entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 39 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

b: 32 *Huccet*

c: 31 *Murasala*

d: 8 *Ilam*

e: 8 Inheritance

Appointment of a naib by the military judge upon the request of the serving qadi:

Sheet 2A: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the province Rumili, Ladiklizâde virtuous Ali Hıfzı Effendi, may his highness endure,

After greetings and salutations, it is an official memorandum that the judge of Ruscuk Hüseyin Effendi have asked permission to transfer his remaining customary period to a Naib. Since you are honourable and upright [person] and competent and capable [of holding the *niyâbet*/deputyship], you have been appointed to the aforesaid province from the beginning of Jumad al-Akhira of this year 1200/01.04.1786 and the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army have been given to your responsibility. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month] and that you enforce [the judgments of] the shari'a among the inhabitants and pay attention for the writing and division [of inheritance] and for the heirs. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Sadık, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: R10

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1217-1219/1802-1804

The sheets and the measure: 83 Sheets, 43.5:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Seyyid Mehmet Said, Qadi, (sheet 1B)

2: Hacı Mustafa, Qadi, (sheet 1B)

Military judge of Rumili: Seyyid İbrahim İsmet, (sheet 20B)

Total Number of entries: 215 Entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 62 *Huccet*

b: 58 Inheritance

c: 55 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

d: 34 *Murasala*

e: 6 *İlam*

Appointment of a naib by the qadi:

Sheet 1B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and reverend judges, Mevlana Mehmet Said Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province Ruscuk, whose disposal was granted and graced [to me], have been transferred and handed over to your majesty from the beginning of Jumad al-Ula of this year 1217/30.08.1802. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month] and you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute them among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a and that you make an effort and pay attention to enforce the judgments of the shari'a. You should haste to do good prayers to your blessed saint Effendis. With cordial greetings.

Sincerely, Seyyid Hacı Mustafa Effendi, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 20B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and the reverend judges Mevlana Mustafa Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Seyyid Hacı Mustafa, the judge (*mutasarrıf*) of Ruscuk, will be deposed after one month from the end of Dhulqa'da Sharifa of this year 1218/12.03.1804. His position has been given to you as conferred in the past, as it is your turn according to the registry of the former military judge and you have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Muharram al-Ikram of the next year, for only 12 months and that you make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and complete your remaining customary period in another province. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid İbrahim İsmet, Military judge of Rumili.

Appointment of a naib by the qadi:

Sheet 53A/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and the reverend judges, Mevlana Seyyid Mehmet Said Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the *niyâbet* (deputyship) of the affairs of the judgements of the shari'a of the province of Ruscuk, which are at my disposal, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty as in the past from the beginning of Rabi al-Ula of this year 1218/21.06.1803. It is required that you assume, as deputy judge, [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned month, and that you enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute them among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Hacı Mustafa, presently judge in the city Ruscuk.

Extension of the service period of the naib Seyyid Mehmet Said Effendi by the qadi:

Sheet 40A/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and reverend judges, Mevlana Seyyid Mehmet Said Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province Ruscuk, which are at my disposal, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty as a naib, from the beginning of Muharram al-Haram of this year 1219/12.04.1804. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned month and do your best to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and pay extra attention to write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and to divide and distribute them among the inheritors in accordance with the share which Allah prescribed in his honourable book [Qur'an]. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mustafa, judge in Ruscuk.

Library register number: R11

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1196, 1225/1781, 1810¹⁹⁴

The sheets and the measure: 128 Sheets, 14:15.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Hasan Reşad, Naib (sheet 2B)

2: Ahmet, Qadi, (sheet 16)

3: Seyyid Mehmet Emin, (signature and stamp on the sheet 110B)

4: Hasan, Qadi (sheet 125)

5: Sheikh Ali Galip, (signature and stamp on the sheet 171)

Total Number of entries: 208 Entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 170 *Waqf*

b: 38 *Murasala*

¹⁹⁴ Since this is a waqf register, it has entries with different dates.

Library register number: R12

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1227-1229/1812-1814

The sheets and the measure: 117 Sheets, 42:16 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: Hacı Hüseyin Effendi b. Mevla Mustafa Effendi,
Qadi (signature and stamp on the sheet 56A)

Scribe of the law court: Dede İbrahim (sheet 17)*

Total Number of entries: 347 Entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 123 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

b: 77 Inheritance

c: 70 *Murasala*

d: 61 *Huccet*

e: 14 *İlam*

f: 1 *Ma'ruz*

g: 1 *Waqf*

Library register number: R13

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1231-1232/1815-1817

The sheets and the measure: 43 Sheets, 42:16 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Mehmet, Qadi, (sheet 2B)

2: Hafız Ali Fikri b. Hafız Abdullah Yanbolevi, Naib, (signature and stamp on the Sheet 36B)

Military judge of Rumili: Seyyid Mustafa, (sheet 2B)

Total Number of entries: 114 Entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 48 *Hucet*

b: 27 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

c: 19 *Murasala*

d: 14 Inheritance

e: 4 *Ilam*

f: 2 *Ma'ruz*

Petition for the judiciary post :

Sheet 2B/2: Safar al-Khayr 1231/January 1816,

Ali Hıfzı, the judge (*mutasarrıf*) of Ruscuk, will be deposed after one month from the end of the next month. His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Mehmet Effendi, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, he is from the honourable and reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province], from the beginning of Jumad al-Ula of the aforementioned year (30.03.1816), for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 2B/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and reverend judges, the prosperous, Mevlana Mehmet Effendi,

After full greetings, it is an official memorandum that Ali hıfzı, the

judge of (mutasarrıf) Ruscuk, will be deposed after one month from the beginning of Rabi al-Ula of this year 1231/31.01.1816. His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and as you are from the honourable and the reverend judges, and as you have the kind help of Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Jumad al-Ula of the aforementioned year (30.03.1816), for the whole customary period and that you make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants .

The poor, Seyyid Mustafa, Military judge of Rumili.

Extension of the service period of the serving naib:

Sheet 14A/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable judges, Mevlana Hafız Ali Fikri Effendi, the prosperous, may your success endure,

After greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, previously were transferred and handed over to you. You made a good effort in enforcing the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants . We know that people are thankful to you and are happy with you. Because of this, it has been transferred and handed over to you as the former appointment, to take over from the beginning of Muharram al-Haram of the year 1232/21.11.1816 until the end of the term. It is required that you assume, as before, [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the aforementioned [month], and you make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and to divide and distribute them among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Havvalzâde Mehmet Emin, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

Library register number: R14

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1233-1235/1817-1819

The sheets and the measure: 95 Sheets, 45:16 cm

Condition of the register: Some entries were crossed out.

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Abdullatif, Qadi, (sheet 48B)
- 2: Seyyid Mustafa, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 57B)
- 3: Seyyid Selim, Naib, (sheet 59B)
- 4: Seyyid Feyzullah, Qadi, (sheet 59B)

Total number of entries: 325 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 117 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*
- b: 97 *Huccet*
- c: 65 *Murasala*
- d: 23 *Ilam*
- e: 21 Inheritance
- f: 2 *Ma'ruz*

An epigram of the naib:

Sheet 22A/4: The one whose income is known trusts in it, the poor who is patient trusts in God.¹⁹⁵

Appointment of a naib by the qadi, Abdullatif for a period of approximately nine months, between 02.10.1818-24.06.1819:

Sheet 48B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Mustafa Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of judgment in line with shari'a in the province of Ruscuk, which have been at my disposal have been transferred and handed over to your honourable majesty as naib, from the beginning of the month Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1233/02.10.1818. It is required that you assume and have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the

¹⁹⁵ The transcription is: '*Rızk-ı mâlum olan erzâka eyler itimat; fakir sabırlı olan rezzâka eyler itimat.*'

aforementioned month and that you enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute them among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the purified shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Abdullatif, judge in the aforesaid province.

Appointment of a naib by the qadi, Seyyid Feyzullah:

Sheet 59B/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Selim Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of judgment in line with shari'a in the province of Ruscuk which have been at my disposal have been transferred and handed over to your majesty to take over from the beginning of the month Ramadan al-Mubarak of this year 1234/24.06.1819. It is required that you assume, as deputy judge, [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month] and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of shari'a among the inhabitants and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute them among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Feyzullah, judge in the aforesaid province.

Library register number: R15

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1235-1238/1820-1823

The sheets and the measure: 74 Sheets, 39:17.5 cm

Condition of the register: Some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Mevla Seyyid Selim, Naib, (Sheet 36A)
- 2: Hafız Ali, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 42B)
- 3: Ahmet Rüşdü, Naib, (sheet 47B)
- 4: Seyyid Mehmet Aziz, Qadi, (sheet 48A)
- 5: Seyyid Mustafa, (signature and stamp on the sheet 66A)
- 6: Seyyid Mehmet Said, Naib, (sheet 66B)
- 7: Seyyid İshak, Qadi, (sheet 66B)
- 8: Seyyid Mehmet Arif, Qadi, (sheet 68B)

Total number of the entries: 227 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 84 *Huccet*
- b: 51 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*
- c: 44 *Murasala*
- d: 42 *Inheritance*
- e: 3 *İlam*
- f: 2 *Waqf*
- g: 1 *Ma'ruz*

Appointment of a naib called Seyyid Selim Effendi by the qadi Seyyid Mehmet Aziz for a period of approximately five months between 04.02.1821-02.07.1821:

Sheet 20B/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Selim Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the *niyâbet* (deputyship) of the affairs of the judgment in line with shari'a in the province Ruscuk which has been at my disposal have been transferred and handed over to your majesty to take over from the beginning of the month Jumad al-Ula of this year 1236/04.02.1821. It is required that you assume, as deputy judge, [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from

the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and that you make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute them among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. You should not let and permit to deviate from the exalted prophetic shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Aziz, judge in the aforesaid province.

Appointment of another naib¹⁹⁶ called Hafız Ali Effendi by the same qadi Seyyid Mehmet Aziz for a period of approximately six months between 02.07.1821-26.12.1821:

Sheet 36B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable judges, Mevlana Hafız Ali Effendi, the prosperous, may his success endure:

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the *niyâbet* (deputyship) of the affairs of judgment in line with the shari'a in the province of Ruscuk which has been at my disposal have been transferred and handed over to your majesty from the beginning of the month Shawwal al-Mukarram of this year 1236/02.07.1821. It is required that you assume, as deputy judge, [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month] and you make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute them among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Aziz, judge in the aforesaid province.

Appointment of the third naib by the same qadi Seyyid Mehmet Aziz for a period of approximately five months between 26.12.1821-22.05.1822:

Sheet 43B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana from the honourable professors, Ahmet Rüşdü Effendi, the prosperous:

¹⁹⁶ The documents do not give us a clue on the question of why the naib was replaced. It is, however, possible that the naib did not want to continue to serve further for one reason, or another. It is also possible that there were complaints about the naib and so the qadi replaced him.

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the *niyâbet* (deputyship) of the affairs of judgment in line with shari'a and the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Ruscuk, which are at my disposal have been transferred and handed over to your majesty from the beginning of the month Rabi al-Ukhra of this year 1237/26.12.1821. It is required that you assume, as deputy judge, [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and that you make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute them among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Aziz, judge in the aforesaid province.

Appointment of the fourth naib by the same qadi Seyyid Mehmet Aziz for a period of approximately one year between 22.05.1822-12.05.1823:

Sheet 48A/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and reverend judges Mevlana Seyyid Mustafa Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the *niyâbet* (deputyship) of the affairs of judgment in line with shari'a in the province of Ruscuk which is at my disposal have been transferred and handed over to your majesty from the beginning of the month Ramadan al-Mubarak of this year 1237/22.05.1822. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month] and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and of local people and divide and distribute them among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted prophetic shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Aziz, judge in the aforesaid province.

Appointment of a naib called Hafız Seyyid Mehmet Sait by qadi Seyyid İshak for a period of approximately two months between 12.05.1823-10.07.1823:

Sheet 66B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Hafız Seyyid Mehmet Sait Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the *niyâbet* (deputyship) of the affairs of judgment in line with shari'a in the province of Ruscuk which is at my disposal have been transferred and handed over to your majesty from the beginning of Ramadan al-Sharif of this year 1238/12.05.1823. It is required that you assume, as deputy judge, [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month] and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and write down and mark the inheritance of deceased soldiers and divide and distribute them among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the most luminous shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid İshak, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

Extension of the service period of the previous naib called Seyyid Mehmet Sait by the new qadi named Seyyid Mehmet Arif:

Sheet 68B/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Mehmet Sait Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the judgement affairs in line with sharia in the province of Ruscuk which are at my disposal have been transferred and handed over to your majesty to take over from the beginning of Dhulqa'da Sharifa of this year 1238/10.07.1823. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month] and should not permit to deviate from enforcing [the judgments of] the shari'a Muhammediyye among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Arif, judge in the aforesaid province.

Library register number: R16

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: Muharram 1239-Rabi al-Akhir 1242/September 1823-November 1826

The sheets and the measure: 97 Sheets, 44:17.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Seyyid Mehmet Said, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 14B)
- 2: Sheikhzâde Hacı İsmail Effendi, Naib, (sheet 15A)
- 3: Mehmet Arif, Qadi, (sheet 15A)
- 4: Seyyid Mehmet Sadık, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 38B)
- 5: Halil, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 43A)
- 6: Ahmet Effendi, Naib, (sheet 43B)
- 7: Seyyid Mehmet Salim, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 90B)
- 8: Salih Effendi, Naib, (sheet 92A)

Total number of the entries: 269 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 100 Inheritance
- b: 87 *Huccet*
- c: 47 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*
- d: 28 *Murasala*
- e: 7 *Ilam*

Appointment of a naib called Sheikhzâde Hacı İsmail Effendi by the qadi Mehmet Arif for a period of approximately three months between 28.06.1824-25.09.1824:

Sheet 15A/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Sheikhzâde Hacı İsmail Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the *niyâbet* (deputyship) of the affairs of judgment in line with the shari'a in the province of Ruscuk which is at my disposal have been transferred and handed over to your majesty from the beginning of Dhulqa'da Sharifa of this year 1239/28.06.1824. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month] and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and

write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute them among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the sound shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Arif, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

Appointment of the second naib called Siyahizâde Seyyid Mehmet Sadık Effendi by the same qadi Mehmet Arif for a period of approximately six months between 25.09.1824-21.03.1825:

Sheet 28B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana from the honourable and the reverend judges, Siyahizâde Seyyid Mehmet Sadık Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the *niyâbet* (deputyship) of the affairs of the judgments of the shari'a of the province of Ruscuk, which is at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty, from the beginning of Safar al-Khayr of this year 1240/25.09.1824. It is required that you assume, as deputy judge, [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and that you enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers when takes place and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the sound shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Arif, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

Appointment of the third naib by the same qadi Mehmet Arif for a period of approximately three months between 21.03.1825-17.06.1825:

Sheet 39A/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Halil Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the *niyâbet* (deputyship) of the affairs of the judgments of the shari'a of the province of Ruscuk, which is at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty, from the beginning of Sha'ban al-Mu'azzam of this year 1240/21.03.1825. It is required that you assume, as deputy judge, [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from

the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and that you enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the sound shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Arif, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

Appointment of a naib named Halil Effendi by the new qadi Seyyid Mehmet Sadık for a period of one month between 17.06.1825-17.07.1825:

Sheet 39A/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Halil Effendi, the prosperous, may his success endure,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the *niyâbet* (deputyship) of the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk, which is at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us to take over from the beginning of Dhulqa'da Sharifa of this year 1240/17.06.1825. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month] and do your best to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the purified shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Sadık, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

Appointment of the second naib named Ahmet Effendi by the same qadi Mehmet Sadık for a period of approximately six months between 17.07.1825-11.01.1826:

Sheet 43B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the execution of the judgements of the shari'a of the province of Ruscuk, which is at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your honourable majesty from the beginning of Dhulhijja

Sharifa of this year 1240/17.07.1825. It is required that you assume, as deputy judge, [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province of from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and pay attention to write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and to divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should avoid of acting against the honourable shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Sadık, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

Appointment of the third naib called Seyyid Mehmet Salim Effendi by the same qadi Mehmet Sadık for a period of approximately eight months between 11.01.1826-04.09.1826:

Sheet 54A/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and the reverend judges, Mevlana Seyyid Mehmet Salim Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the judgments of the shari'a of the province of Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty from the beginning of Jumad al-Akhira of this year 1241/11.01.1826. It is required that you assume, as deputy judge, [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and make good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Sadık, judge in the aforesaid province.

Appointment of the fourth naib called Salih Effendi by the same qadi Mehmet Sadık:

Sheet 92A/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Salih Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs

of the province of Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment have been transferred and handed over to your majesty from the beginning of the month Safar al-Khayr of this year 1242/04.09.1826. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and you enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and of local people, and divide and distribute them among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Sadık, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

Library register number: R17

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1238-1249/1822-1833

The sheets and the measure: 46 Sheets, 44.5:16 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Seyyid Mehmet Said, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 6A)
- 2: Hafız Mehmet Salih, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 15B)¹⁹⁷

Total number of entries: 83 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 57 *Huccet*
- b: 17 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*
- c: 6 *Murasala*
- d: 3 *Ma'ruz*

197 The catalogue names the judge as 'Ali efendi'. I am not able to find his name in the register.

Library register number: R18¹⁹⁸

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1242-1243/1826-1827

The sheets and the measure: 67 Sheets, 48.5:16.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Hafız Mehmet Salih, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 3A)¹⁹⁹
- 2: Yakup Effendi, Naib, (sheet 5B)
- 3: Mahmut b. Ali, Qadi, (sheet 36B)²⁰⁰

Total number of the entries: 240 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 73 *Huccet*
- b: 49 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*
- c: 49 *Ma'ruz*
- d: 30 Inheritance
- e: 20 *Murasala*
- f: 19 *Ilam*

The following entry suggests that the naib of the quarter (nahiye, sub-division of a province) was hearing the cases of the quarter as well as the province. The qadi appointed a naib to the province and stripped the power of the naib of the hearing the cases and asked him to act in accordance with this correspondence.

Sheet 5B/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Yakup Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that this correspondence has been written and given to his [Yakup's] hand due to the fact that since the shari'a affairs of the province Ruscuk were transferred and handed over to our responsibility from the beginning of Recep al-Sharif of this year 1242/29.01.1827, I appointed a naib to deal with the

¹⁹⁸ It is likely that the two different registers were bound together.

¹⁹⁹ He started to serve on 5 Dhulhijja 1242/30.06.1827.

²⁰⁰ He started to serve on Rabi al-Akhir 1243/October 1827.

administration of the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province, in the suburbs of *quarter*. It is required that you act in accordance with the requirement of this correspondence. You should not permit to deviate from the shari'a Muhammediyye. With cordial greetings. [This was] written on 9 Recep 1242/06.02.1827.

This correspondence was probably written and sent by Mahmut b. Ali because he was the judge at that time, as we see his signature on the sheet 36B.

Library register number: R19

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1243-1244/1827-1828

The sheets and the measure: 70 Sheets, 45.5:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: This needs to be rebound as some of the sheets are loosely attached.

The qadis and/or naibs: Mahmut b. Ali, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 65A)

Total number of the entries: 246 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 70 *Huccet*

b: 48 *Ma'ruz*

c: 47 Inheritance

d: 37 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

e: 23 *Murasala*

f: 20 *Ilam*

Library register number: R20

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1245-1246/1829-1830

The sheets and the measure: 79 Sheets, 37:15 cm

Condition of the register: This needs to be handled carefully as the sheets are very thin.

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Ali Galip, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 19A)
- 2: Seyyid Hafız Hüseyin, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 41A)
- 3: Seyyid Hafız Mehmet, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 10B)
- 4: Seyyid Mehmet Muhyiddin, Qadi, (sheet 19B)
- 5: Ali Effendi, Naib, (sheet 77A)

Total number of the entries: 358 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 148 *Huccet*
- b: 104 Inheritance
- c: 64 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*
- d: 15 *Ma'ruz*
- e: 14 *Murasala*
- f: 13 *Ilam*

Appointment of a Mufti as a naib for a period of approximately two months between 03.07.1829-31.08.1829:

Sheet 77A/3: His Excellency, Mevlana Ali Effendi who is authorized to issue fatwa in the province Ruscuk, the prosperous,

After greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province were transferred to you in accordance with the *inâbet* by the judge (*mutasarrıf*) Seyyid Mehmet Muhyiddin Effendi, to take over from the beginning of Muharram al-Haram of this year 1245/03.07.1829. The required legal (shari'a) correspondence has been sent. In the aforesaid province, you pay careful attention to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants. This correspondence has been sent so that it is to be followed. When it is arrived, you do your best to enforce the prophetic shari'a in accordance with this written [correspondence]. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Yahya zâde Seyyid Abdulwahhab, may God forgive them.

Appointment of a naib called Ali Effendi by the qadi Seyyid Mehmet Muhyiddin for a period of approximately two and a half months between 31.08.1829-12.11.1829:

Sheet 77A/4: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Ali Effendi, the prosperous,

After many glorified greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the judgments of the shari'a of the province Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty as a naib by us, from the beginning of Rabi al-Ula of this year 1245/31.08.1829. It is required that you assume, as deputy judge, [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of the aforementioned month, and that you make great efforts and pay attention to enforce the judgments of the shari'a and mark the division [of inheritance] of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute it among the inheritors. It is expected that you pay full attention and act with honour and reason (*vücûh-u ismet*). With cordial greetings.

From the sincere friends, Seyyid Mehmet Muhyiddin, judge in the province Ruscuk.

Appointment of another naib called Seyyid Hafız Hüseyin Effendi by the same qadi Seyyid Mehmet Muhyiddin:

Sheet 19B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Hafız Hüseyin Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the *niyâbet* (deputyship) and the judgments of the shari'a of the province Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to you by us, to take over from the middle of Jumad al-Ula of this year 1245/12.11.1829. It is required that you assume, as deputy judge, [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the aforementioned month, and that you pay attention to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and to write down and mark

the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and to divide and to distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted prophetic [shari'a]. With cordial greetings.

From the sincere friends, Seyyid Mehmet Muhyiddin, judge in the province Ruscuk.

Library register number: R21

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1245-1254/1829-1839

The sheets and the measure: 93 Sheets, 45.5:16 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Seyyid Ali Piri, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 16A)
- 2: Mehmet Salih, Qadi, (sheet 16B)
- 3: Seyyid Ahmet Rüşdü, Qadi, (sheet 45B)
- 4: Hafız Hüseyin, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 46A)
- 5: Seyyid İshak, Qadi, (sheet 46A)
- 6: Seyyid Ahmet Rüşdü, Qadi, (sheet 46A)
- 7: Hafız Mehmet Şemsüddin, Naib, (sheet 53B)
- 8: Seyyid Mehmet Zihni, Qadi, (sheet 162B)
- 9: Ali Shakir, Naib, (sheet 190A)
- 10: Said Raşit, Qadi, (sheet 190A)

Military judge of Rumili:

- 1: Halil Hamid Pashazâde Mehmet Arif, (sheet 27A)
- 2: Mehmet Saidullah, (sheet 46A)

Total number of entries: 274 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 109 Inheritance
- b: 73 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*
- c: 53 *Huccet*
- d: 34 *Murasala*
- e: 3 *Ilam*
- f: 2 *Ma'ruz*

Appointment of a naib called Ali Piri Effendi by the qadi Mehmet Salih:

Sheet 16B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and the reverend judges, Seyyid Ali Piri Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that [the shari'a affairs of the province Ruscuk], which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your excellent,

virtuous majesty, to take over from the beginning of Rabi al-Akhir of this year 1247/09.09.1831. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and make a good effort to enforce [the judgments of] the shari'a among the inhabitants and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Salih, judge in the aforesaid province.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance of a certain person by the military judge:

Sheet 27A/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, the naib of the honourable shari'a in the province Ruscuk, Mevlana Hüseyin Chalabi²⁰¹ Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that since the writing of the inheritance of Hacı Mehmet Ağa, the head of the gate keepers, former mütesellim²⁰² of Silistre, who previously died while he was residing as a guest [in the province Ruscuk] is among the special subjects which are related to the army, it has been transferred and handed over to you by us. It is required that you write down and mark all inheritances of the aforesaid deceased [Mehmet] which are in that region, and divide and distribute them among the inheritors in accordance with sharia and hear the related lawsuits in accordance with the shari'a and send us the stamped notebook and the collected customary taxes and fees [charged] for the documents, after taking one fifth out. With cordial greetings.

Halil Hamid Pashazâde Mehmet Arif, Military judge of Rumili.

Buyruldu of the Military Judge:

201 The title Chalabi Chalabiwas used for the Sultan's sons until 15th century. Since then, it was designated to the literate people as a title of respect. However, according to Zilfi, it "probably denotes association with a trade". Sertoğlu, *Osmanlı Tarihi*, p. 65; Bayerle, *Pashas*, p. 30; Zilfi, M. C. "We do not get along: Women and Hul Divorce in the 18th Century" in *Women in the Ottoman Empire: Middle Eastern Women in the Early Modern Era*, Zilfi, M. C. (ed.), Netherlands, (1997), pp. 280, 294.

202 Deputy lieutenant –governor and local collector of taxes and tithes. Bayerle, *Pashas*, p. 117.

Sheet 46A/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the judgments of the shari'a of the province Ruscuk have been transferred and handed over to you from the beginning of Safar al-Kayr of this year 1249/20.06.1833. It is required that you assume, as deputy judge, [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of the aforementioned [month] and make a good effort and pay attention to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants and pay careful attention to write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Saidullah, Military judge of Rumili.

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 46A/2: In the Dhulhijja Sharifa, for the year 1248/April 1833,

Seyyid İshak, the judge (*mutasarrıf*) of Ruscuk, died and his service is extended to his heirs with the command of his Excellency, the favoured lord (*veli-naim*).²⁰³ His position is conferred to well-wisher Seyyid Ahmet Rüşdü, as a naib after three months from the end of the next month, who has approximately 25 months which have passed since he left his post in the province of İstefe and as he is from the honourable and the reverend judges and has the kind help of Sultan, he deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province], for only eight months from the beginning of Jumad al-Ula of the next year and that he completes the remaining customary period in another province, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the Military Judge:

Sheet 46A/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and the reverend judges, Mevlana Seyyid Ahmet Rüşdü Effendi, the prosperous,

²⁰³ This refers either to the Sultan or the Sheikh al-Islam.

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Seyyid İshak, the judge (*mutasarrıf*) of Ruscuk, died and his service is extended to his heirs with the command of his Excellency, the favoured lord. His position is initially given to you, on the basis of connected and related honour (*şerefi taalluk ve irtisâbına binâen*), after three months from the end of Muharram al-Haram of this year 1249/19.06.1833, as you have approximately 25 months which have passed since you left your post in the province İstefe, and as you have the kind help of Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province], from the beginning of Jumad al-Ula (16 September) of the aforementioned year for only eight months and that you make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and that you complete your remaining customary period in another province. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Saidullah, Military judge of Rumili.

Appointment of a naib called Hafız Hüseyin Effendi by the qadi Mehmet Salih for a period of approximately four months between 03.02.1832-31.05.1832:

Sheet 79A/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Hafız Hüseyin Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the *niyâbet* (deputyship) of the affairs of the judgments of the shari'a of the province Ruscuk, which is at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, has been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us, from the beginning of Ramadan al-Sharif of this year 1247/03.02.1832. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and that you make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Salih, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

It is difficult to establish the service period of the following naib as there are four years between the dates of the service period of this naib and the next one which is beyond the serving limits of the qadis.

Sheet 72A/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Hafız Hüseyin Hilmi Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the judgments of the shari'a of the province of Ruscuk, which were granted and graced to humble well-wisher by his kindness, the exalted Sultan (*avâtıfı âliyyeyi hasrâdan*) and the exalted King (*avârıfı behiyyeyi melûkâne*) in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty from the beginning of Muharram al-Haram of this year 1248/31.05.1832. It is required that you, as deputy judge, have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of the aforementioned month and make a sound effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should avoid of acting in contradiction with the shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid İshak, judge (*mutasarrıf*) in the aforesaid province.

Appointment of a naib called Ali Shakir Effendi by the qadi Said Raşit for a period of approximately one year between 16.06.1836-05.06.1837:

Sheet 190A/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Ali Shakir Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the judgments of the shari'a of the province Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment have been transferred to your majesty from the beginning of Rabi al-Ula of this year 1252/16.06.1836. It is required that you as deputy judge assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the prophetic shari'a

among the inhabitants and write down and mark [the inheritance of] the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Said Raşit, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

Extension of the service period of the aforesaid naib by the same qadi for approximately two months from 05.06.1837 until 03.08.1837:

Sheet 176B/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Ali Shakir Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that [the shari'a affairs of] the province of Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to you from Rabi al-Ula of this year [12]53/05.06.1837. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the aforementioned month and you make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants and you divide and distribute the inheritance of the deceased soldiers among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Said Raşit, judge in the aforesaid province.

Appointment of naibs whose names are undisclosed by the qadi Seyyid Mehmet Zihni:

1: **Sheet 171A/1:** His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana [no name was recorded], the prosperous,

After brilliant greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the judgments of the shari'a of the province of Ruscuk, which were granted and graced to this humble well-wisher by his kindness, and the exalted Sultan in accordance with the procedure of appointment to take over from the beginning of the month Jumad al-Ula of this year 1253/03.08.1837, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty. It is required that you,

as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a Muhammediyye, May Allah's forgiveness be upon the Prophet. With cordial greetings.

From the sincere friends,
Seyyid Mehmet Zihni, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

2: **Sheet** 162B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana [no name was recorded], the prosperous,

After brilliant greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the judgments of the shari'a of the province of Ruscuk, which were granted and graced to this humble well-wisher by his kindness and the exalted Sultan in accordance with the procedure of appointment, to take over from the beginning of Dhulqa'da Sharifa of this year 1253/27.01.1838, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of the aforementioned [month] and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a Muhammediyye, May Allah's forgiveness be upon the Prophet. With cordial greetings.

From the sincere friends,
Seyyid Mehmet Zihni, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

3: **Sheet** 158A/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana [no name was recorded], the prosperous,

After brilliant greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the judgments of the shari'a of the province of Ruscuk, which were granted and graced to this humble well-wisher by his kindness, the exalted Sultan in accordance with the procedure of appointment, to take over from the

beginning of the month Jumad al-Ula of this year 1254/23.07.1838, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a Muhammediyye, May Allah's forgiveness be upon the Prophet. With cordial greetings.

From the sincere friends,
Seyyid Mehmet Zihni, judge in the province Ruscuk.

4: **Sheet** 145B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana [no name was recorded], the prosperous,

After brilliant greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the judgments of the shari'a of the province of Ruscuk, which were granted and graced to this humble well-wisher by his kindness the exalted Sultan in accordance with the procedure of appointment, to take over from the beginning of the month Dhulqa'da Sharifa of this year 1254/16.01.1839, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the share of shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a Muhammediyye, May Allah's forgiveness be upon the Prophet. With cordial greetings.

From the sincere friends,
Seyyid Mehmet Zihni, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

Library register number: R22

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1249-1255/1833-1839

The sheets and the measure: 249 Sheets, 45.5:16.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Hafız Mehmet Şemsüddin, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 8B)
- 2: Ali Şâkir, Naib, (sheet 14B)
- 3: Said Raşid, Qadi, (sheet 183B)

Military judge of Rumili:

- 1: Seyyid Müslim b. Mehmet (sheet 234B)
- 2: Mehmet Sadullah, (sheet 248A)

Total number of the entries: 498 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 210 *Huccet*
- b: 105 *Inheritance*
- c: 101 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*
- d: 64 *Murasala*
- e: 12 *İlam*
- f: 6 *Ma'ruz*

Appointment of a naib called Ali Shakir Effendi by the qadi Said Raşit for a period of approximately one year between 01.01.1835-21.12.1835:

Sheet 183B/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Ali Shakir Effendi, the prosperous,

After greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to you, from the beginning of the month Ramadan al-Sharif of this year 1250/01.01.1835. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the aforementioned [month], and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and divide and distribute the inheritance of the deceased soldiers among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted

shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings.

The poor, the humble, Said Raşid,
presently judge in the aforesaid province.

Extension of the service period of the aforesaid naib by the same qadi:

Sheet 200B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Ali Shakir Effendi, the prosperous,

After greetings, it is an official memorandum that [the shari'a affairs] of the province of Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to you from the beginning of the month Ramadan al-Sharif of this year 1251/21.12.1835. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the aforementioned [month], and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and to distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Said Raşid, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

The following is a *buyruldu*. The qadi was appointed for a period of approximately seven months between 28.11.1833-08.07.1834:

Sheet 248A/1:²⁰⁴ His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Şemsüddin Effendi, the prosperous,

After good greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province Ruscuk have been transferred and handed over to you by us, from the fifteenth day of the month Recep al-Fard of this year 1249/28.11.1833. It is required that you, as deputy judge, have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the aforementioned day, and that you make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and to mark and to write down the discovered inheritance of the deceased soldiers and to divide and to distribute it among

²⁰⁴ Although this entry is recorded on the page 248, its date shows that it should have been normally recorded in earlier sheets. The judge recorded it on the last page of the register as they sometimes did ignoring the chorological order of the entries.

the inheritors in accordance with sharia. You should avoid of and abstain from contravening the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Sadullah, military judge of Rumili.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 234B/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Ali Shakir Effendi, the prosperous,

After greetings, it is an official memorandum that [the shari'a affairs] of the province of Ruscuk have been transferred and handed over to you on the ground of our general authority, from the beginning of the month Rabi al-Ula of this year 1250/08.07.1834. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the aforementioned month, and make a great effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants . With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Müslim bin Mehmet,
The Deputy Chief Imam of the Sultan, military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: R23

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1261-1265/ 1845-1848

The sheets and the measure: 96 Sheets, 48.5:17.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Seyyid Mehmet Esad, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 2A)
- 2: Mehmet Sadık, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 88A)
- 3: Seyyid hacı Mehmet Rashid, Naib, (sheet 4B)

Total number of the entries: 415 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 271 Inheritance
- b: 50 *Huccet*
- c: 43 *Ilam*
- d: 20 *Ma'ruz*
- e: 19 *Murasala*
- f: 12 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

Appointment of a naib by the qadi.

Sheet 4B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable professors, Mevlana Seyyid hacı Mehmet Rashid Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the judgements of the shari'a of the province of Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your honourable majesty on the ground of preference and selection command of his Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi, from the 15th day of Jumad al-Ula of this year 1261/22.05.1845. It is required that you, as deputy judge, have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the aforementioned day, and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, write down and mark [the inheritance of] the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should avoid acting in contradiction with honourable shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Hacı Mehmet,
judge (*mutasarrıf*) in the aforesaid province.

Library register number: R24

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1265-1268/1848-1852

The sheets and measure: 86 Sheets, 54:19 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Mehmet Sadık, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 5A)

2: Sâlim Effendi zâde Seyyid Derviş Ahmet Latif, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 71B)

Total number of the entries: 613 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 262 *Hucet*

b: 227 Inheritance

c: 57 *İlam*

d: 34 *Ma'ruz*

e: 22 *Murasala*

f: 10 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

g: 1 *Waqf*

Library register number: R25

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1268-1271/1851-1855

The sheets and the measure: 138 Sheets, 45.5:17 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: İbrahim, Qadi, (sheet 75B)

2: Mufti zâde Seyyid Derviş Ahmet Nazîf Effendi, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 34B)

3: Feyzi zâde Mehmet Elmas, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 105B)

Military judge of Rumili: Seyyid İbrahim Halil Fındık zâde Hafidi, (sheet 2B)

Total number of the entries: 782 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 393 Inheritance

b: 277 *Huccet*

c: 52 *İlam*

d: 35 *Murasala*

e: 15 *Ma'ruz*

f: 10 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 2B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable judges, Mevlana Mehmet Elmas Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the judgements of the shari'a of the province Ruscuk have been transferred and handed over to your majesty on the ground of preference and selection command of his Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi, and on the basis of our general authority, from the beginning of Sha'ban al-Mu'azzam of this year 1268/21.05.1852. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and make an effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and pay careful attention to write down and to

divide the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and require registration.
With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid İbrahim Halil Fındıkzâde Hafidi,
Military judge of Rumili.

Appointment of a naib by the qadi:

Sheet 75B/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Müftüzâde Seyyid Derviş Ahmet Nazif Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to you on the ground of preference and selection command of his Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi, to take over from the beginning of the month Dhulhijja al-Sharifa of this year 1270/25.08.1854. It is required that you, as deputy judge, have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the aforementioned [month], and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants, mark and to write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and to distribute it among the inheritors. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, İbrahim, Judge (*mutasarrıf*) in the aforesaid province.

Library register number: R26

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1271-1275/1854-1859

The sheets and the measure: 190 Sheets, 58.5:17.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good, (three more sheets were attached to the sheets between 162-163.)

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Latîf Seyyid Dervîş Ahmet Latîf, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 35)

2: Mehmet Rifat Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 36B)

3: Ali Effendi zâde Mehmet Zihni Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 151B)

4: Necmeddin Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 176A)

Military judge of Rumili:

1: Mehmet Rüşdü b. Mehmet Sadık, (sheet 36B)

2: Seyyid Mustafa, (sheet 100B)

3: Dürri zâde Seyyid Mehmet Şerif (sheet 152A)

Total number of entries: 808 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 375 *Huccet*

b: 282 *Inheritance*

c: 100 *Ilam*

d: 37 *Ma'ruz*

e: 10 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

f: 4 *Murasala*

The following is a *buyruldu* of the military judge. The qadi was appointed for a period of approximately eighteen months between 06.05.1856-20.10.1857:

Sheet 36B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable professors, Mevlana Mehmet Rifat Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the judgements of the shari'a of the province of Ruscuk have been transferred and handed over to your honourable majesty on the ground

of preference and selection of his Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi and our general authority, from the beginning of the month Ramadan al-Mubarak of this year 1272/06.05.1856. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Rüşdü b. Mehmet Sadık, Military judge of Rumili.

In the following *buyruldu* of the military judge, the qadi was appointed for a period of approximately twelve and a half months between 20.10.1857-08.11.1858:

Sheet 100B/1: Pillar among illustrious *Mevâlis*, the virtuous Mehmet Zihni Effendi, to his esteemed presence,

With the appropriate greetings and complete and excellent salutations, our apparent affection is that the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk have been transferred and handed over to your honourable majesty, on the ground of preference and selection of his Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi and our general authority from the beginning of the month Rabi al-Ula of this year 1274/20.10.1857. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and make an effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and to divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The first Imam of the Sultan, the poor,
el-Hâc Seyyid Mustafa, Military judge of Rumili

The following is a *buyruldu* of the military judge in which Necmeddin Effendi was appointed as a qadi:

Sheet 152A/1: Pillar among illustrious *Mevâlis*, the virtuous Necmeddin Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk have been transferred and handed over to your honourable majesty on the ground of preference and selection of his Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi and on the basis of our authority, from the beginning of the month Rabi al-Ukhra of this year 1275/08.11.1858. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and pay careful attention to make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and to divide and to distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Dürriizâde Seyyid Mehmet Şerif, Military judge of Rumili

Library register number: R27²⁰⁵

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1275-1277/1858-1861

The sheets and the measure: 98 Sheets, 52:19.5 cm

Condition of the register: Some entries on the sheet 94 are illegible.

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Mehmet Necmeddin Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 44A)

2: Qadizâde Hacı Mehmet Emin Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 44B)

3: Mustafa Aşır Effendi, Qadi (signature and stamp on the sheet 91B)

Military judge of Rumili: Mehmet Zeki, known as Arapzâde, (sheet 44B)

Total number of the entries: 444 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 139 *Ma'ruz*

b: 136 *Huccet*

c: 121 Inheritance

d: 35 *Ilam*

e: 7 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

f: 5 *Murasala*

g: 1 *Waqf*

In the following *buyruldu* of the military judge, the qadi was appointed for a period of approximately six and a half months between 23.03.1860-17.10.1860:

Sheet 44B/1: *Yâ Fattâh* (O Opener of all ways), *Yâ Razzâq* (O Provider of the needs of men and beasts), *Yâ Alim* (O Omniscient), [these are attributed to God]. His Excellency, the measure of law, from the *Mevâlî-i Devriyye*, the virtuous Mehmet Emin Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk have been transferred and handed over to you on the ground of preference and selection of his Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi and on the basis of our authority from the beginning of the month

²⁰⁵ This register has a table of the content of the cases.

Ramadan el-Mubarak of this year 1276/23.03.1860. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month] and that you pay careful attention to make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and to divide and to distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Zeki, known as Arapzâde,
Military judge of Rumili.

The following is a *buyruldu* of the military judge in which Mustafa Aşır Effendi was appointed as a qadi:

Sheet 71B/1: O, Opener of all ways, O, Provider of the needs of men and beasts, O, Omniscient. His Excellency, the measure of law, from the illustrious *Mevâlis*, Mustafa Aşır Effendi,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk have been transferred and handed over to your honourable majesty on the grounds of preference and selection of his Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi and on the basis of our authority, from the beginning of the month Rabi al-Ukhra of this year 1277/17.10.1860. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and pay careful attention to make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and to divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Zeki, known as Arapzâde,
Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: R28

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1 Jumad al-Ula 1280-6 Muharram 1281/14.10.1863-11.06.1864

The sheets and the measure: 91 Sheets, 50.5:17 cm

Condition of the register: The sheet 29 is torn.

The qadis and/or naibs: Süleyman Effendi zâde Seyyid Mehmet Emin Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 91A)

Military judge of Rumili: Mustafa Arab, (sheet 2B)

Total number of the entries: 447 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 241 *Huccet*

b: 98 *Inheritance*

c: 83 *Ilam*

d: 17 *Ma'ruz*

e: 7 *Murasala*

f: 1 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 2B/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable *Mevâlis*, the virtuous Mehmet Emin Effendi, may your success for the goodness endure,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk have been transferred and handed over to your honourable majesty on the grounds of preference and selection of his Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi and on the basis of our authority, from the beginning of the month Jumad al-Ula of this year 1280/14.10.1863. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and pay careful attention to make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and to divide and to distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

From İstanbul, the Chief Imam of the Sultan,
the poor, el-Hâc Mustafa Arap, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: R29²⁰⁶

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: Recep 1286-Dhulhijja 1287/October 1869-February 1871

The sheets and the measure: 130 Sheets, 54.5:19 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: Mufti zâde Seyyid Mehmet Haşim, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 128B)

Total number of the entries: 446 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 295 *Huccet*

b: 73 *Ilam*

c: 55 Inheritance

d: 23 *Ma'ruz*

The following is an important statement about the review of the cases (*Dâvânın istînâfi*):²⁰⁷

Sheet 71B/1: When a case is heard according to shari'a, it is not allowed to hear it again.²⁰⁸

²⁰⁶ This register has a table of the content of the cases and the entries are numbered.

²⁰⁷ For a discussion on appeal of the cases in the Ottoman Empire, see Cigdem, *The Register of the Law Court of İstanbul 1321-1324/1903-1906*, pp. 96-105.

²⁰⁸ The transcription is: '*Bir defa mâ'rifet-i şer'i ile rû'yet olunan dâvânın tekrar istimânın câiz olmadığına dair...*'

Library register number: R30²⁰⁹

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 3 Dhulhijja 1287-28 Ramadan 1288/24.02.1871-11.12.1871

The sheets and the measure: 126 Sheets, 52:18 cm

Condition of the register: Good²¹⁰

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Mufti zâde Seyyid Mehmet Haşim, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 34A)

2: Mehmet Sıdkı Effendi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 114B)

3: Mehmet Nuri, Vekil-i Naib-i Ruscuk,²¹¹ (signature and stamp on the sheet 123A)

Military judge of Rumili: Zeynelabidin Effendi zâde Mehmet İmadüddin, (sheet 34B)

Total number of the entries: 542 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 200 *Hucet*

b: 200 Inheritance

c: 81 *Ma'ruz*

d: 39 *Ilam*

e: 17 *Murasala*

f: 3 *Waqf*

g: 2 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

The following is a *buyruldu* of the military judge about the appointment of Mehmet Sıdkı Effendi as a qadi:

Sheet 34B/1: O, Opener of all ways, O, Provider of the needs of men and beasts, O, Omniscient, He is the helper. His Excellency, the measure of law, from the illustrious *Mevâlis*, Mevlana Mehmet Sıdkı Effendi, may your success for the goodness endure,

²⁰⁹ This register has a table of the content of the cases.

²¹⁰ A document which had been handed out to the sides of the case was attached to the sheet 68.

²¹¹ The last entry recorded by Mehmet Sıdkı efendi is dated 20 Sha'ban 1288/04.11.1871. The last entry recorded by his naib Mehmet Nuri is dated 28 Ramadan 1288/11.12.1871.

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a *niyâbet* (deputyship) of the centre of Ruscuk has been transferred and handed over to your virtuousness, on the grounds of preference and selection of his Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi and on the basis of our authority, from the beginning of the month Rabi al-Ukhra of this year 1288/20.06.1871. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and pay careful attention to make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Zeynelabidin Effendizâde Mehmet İmadüddin,
Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: R31

The law court: Ruscuk²¹²

Date of the register: 1288-1289/1871-1872

The sheets and the measure: 181 Sheets, 55:20 cm

Condition of the register: Good²¹³

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Seyyid Mehmet Aşır, Qadi, (sheet 6B)

2: Şerif Rüşdü Effendi, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 118)

3: Nasuhi zâde hafidi Ali Haydar Effendi,²¹⁴ Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 178B)

Total number of the entries: 889 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 310 Inheritance

b: 298 *Huccet*

c: 189 *Ma'ruz*

d: 66 *Ilam*

e: 25 *Murasala*

f: 1 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

Appointment of a naib called Şerif Rüşdü Effendi by the qadi Seyyid Mehmet Aşır for a period of approximately eight months between 14.12.1871-20.08.1872:

Sheet 6B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the *Mahreç Mevâlis*, the virtuous Şerif Rüşdü Effendi, may your success for the goodness endure,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with *Mevleviyet*, have been transferred and handed over to your virtuousness, on the grounds of preference and selection of his Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi, from the beginning of the month of Shawwal al-Sharif of this year

²¹² This register has a table of the content of the cases.

²¹³ The inheritance huccets which had been handed out to the sides of the cases were attached to the sheets 41 and 93.

²¹⁴ He served between 15 Jumad al-Akhira 1289/20.08.1872-22 Dhulhijja 1289/20.02.1873.

1288/14.12.1871. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and pay careful attention to make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and to divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a at any time.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Aşır,
judge (*mutasarrıf*) in the aforesaid Province.

Appointment of another naib called Haydar Effendi by the same qadi Seyyid Mehmet Aşır:

Sheet 119B/1: O, Opener of all ways, O, Provider of the needs of men and beasts, O, Omniscient. His Excellency, the measure of law, from the *Devriye Mevâlis*, the virtuous Haydar Effendi, may your success for the goodness endure,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with *Mevleviyet*, have been transferred and handed over to your honourable virtuousness, on the ground of preference and selection command of his Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi, from the fifteenth day of the month Jumad al-Akhira of this year 1289/20.08.1872. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the aforementioned day, and pay careful attention to make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and mark and write down the inheritance of deceased soldiers, which require registration, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a at any time. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Aşır,
judge (*mutasarrıf*) in the aforesaid Province.

Library register number: R32²¹⁵

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 3 Muharram 1290-22 Dhulqa'da 1290/03.03.1873-11.01.1874

The sheets and the measure: 180 Sheets, 55:19.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good²¹⁶

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Seyyid Mehmet Aşir, Qadi, (sheet 79B)

2: Nasuhi zâde Seyyid Ali Haydar Effendi,²¹⁷ Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 78)

3: İbrahim Cemaleddin Effendi,²¹⁸ Naib, (sheet 79B)

Total number of the entries: 788 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 301 Inheritance

b: 286 *Huccet*

c: 149 *Ma'ruz*

d: 26 *İlam*

e: 22 *Murasala*

f: 3 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

g: 1 *Waqf*,²¹⁹

²¹⁵ This register has a table of the content of the cases.

²¹⁶ An inheritance huccet which had been handed out to the sides of the case was loosely attached to the sheet 70.

²¹⁷ He served between 3 Muharram 1290/03.03.1873-17 Rabi al-Awwal 1290/15.05.1873.

²¹⁸ He served between 20 Rabi al-Akhir 1290/17.06.1873-22 Dhulqa'da 1290/11.01.1874.

²¹⁹ The waqf was ratified by Nasuhi zâde Seyyid Ali Haydar efendi.

Library register number: R33

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 20 Safar 1291-15 Ramadan 1292/08.04.1874-15.10.1875

The sheets and the measure: 289 Sheets, 54:19.5 cm

Condition of the register: Sheets between 230-240 were written upside down

The qadis and/or naibs: :

1: Hafidi İbrahim Cemaleddin Effendi,²²⁰ Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 25B)

2: Mustafa Necmeddin, Qadi, (sheet 257B)

3: Tahsin Bekirzâde İbrahim Necip,²²¹ Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 280B)

Total number of the entries: 951 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 340 Inheritance

b: 291 *Huccet*

c: 281 *Ma'ruz*

d: 19 *Murasala*

e: 15 *İlam*

f: 2 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

g: 3 *Waqf*

Appointment of a naib by the qadi:

Sheet 257B/2. The virtuous, the measure of law, from the *Mahreç Mevâlis*, Tahsin Bekirzâde İbrahim Effendi, may your success for the goodness endure,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with *Mevleviyet*, have been transferred and handed over to your honourable virtuousness, on the grounds of preference and selection command of his Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi from the twentieth day of the month Rabi al-Akhir

²²⁰ He served between 25 Safar 1291/13.04.1874-15 Safar 1292/23.03.1875.

²²¹ He served between 20 Rabi al-Akhir 1292/26.05.1875-15 Ramadan 1292/15.10.1875.

of this year 1292/26.05.1875. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the aforementioned day, and pay careful attention to make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants and mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and to divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a at any time. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mustafa Necmeddin,
judge (*mutasarrif*) in the aforesaid Province.

An addition to the land code of Empire was recorded as follows:

Sheet 273B/4: An addition to the article 180 of the Imperial land code:
..The territory of the killed is not transferred to the killer, the killer has no right to the *tabu* (title deed) on the territory of the killed. 5 ج (Jumad al-Akhir) [12]92/09.07.1875.

Library register number: R34

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1292-1294/1875-1877

The sheets and the measure: 163 Sheets, 55:19 cm

Condition of the register: Some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Tahsin Bekirzâde İbrahim Necip,²²² Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 44B)

2: Ebû Hayr Effendi,²²³ Qadi, (sheet 83B)

3: Hasan Tahsin Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 83B)

Military judge of Rumili: Ali Yesârizâde Seyyid Ahmet, (sheet 49A)

Total number of the entries: 734 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 291 Inheritance

b: 214 *Ma'ruz*

c: 153 *Huccet*

d: 51 *Ilam*

e: 23 *Murasala*

f: 2 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 49A/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable professors, Mevlana Hasan Tahsin Effendi, may your success for the goodness endure,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the Tuna province have been transferred and handed over to your honourable majesty on the grounds of preference and selection of his Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi and on the basis of our authority, from the twenty sixth of the month Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1292/23.01.1876. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the aforementioned day and pay careful attention to make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and to

²²² He served between 15 Recep 1292/17.08.1875-22 Sha'ban 1292/23.09.1875.

²²³ He served between 5 Ramadan 1293/24.09.1876-11 Jumad al-Akhira 1294/23.06.1877.

mark and write down the inheritance of deceased soldiers, and to divide and to distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Ali Yesârizâde Seyyid Ahmet,
Military judge of Rumili.

The ascension to the throne of the Sultan Murat IV was recorded as follows:

Sheet 1A/1: It is recorded that the ascension to the throne of the Sultan Murat, our Effendi, was on Tuesday of 6 Jumad al-Awwal of the year 1293/30.05.1876, may God help his justice. 6 Jumad al-Ula [12]93/30.05.1876, 17 May 92.²²⁴

The ascension to the throne of the Sultan Abdulhamit II was recorded as follows:

Sheet 1A/2: It is recorded that the ascension to the throne of the Sultan Hamit han, our Effendi, was on Thursday of 11 Sha'ban al-Mu'azzam 1293/31.08.1876, may God help his justice. 11 Sha'ban [12]93/31.08.1876, 19 August 92.²²⁵

²²⁴ The transcription is as follows: *Sultan Murat efendimizin tahta cûlûs-ü Hümâyunları bin iki yüz doksan üç (1293) senesi Cemâdi'l-evvel'inin altıncı Salı günü olup Mevlâ adl-i adâletini afzûn ve nusret eylesin, duasıyla bu şerh virildi.*

²²⁵ The transcription is as follows: *Sultan Hamit Han efendimizin tahta cûlûs-ü Hümâyunları bin iki yüz doksan üç (1293) senesi Sha'ban-ı Muazzâm'mun on birinci Perşembe günü olup Mevlâ adl-i adâletini afzûn ve nusret eylesin, duasıyla bu şerh virildi.*

Library register number: R35

The law court: Ruscuk (Bulgarian Principality)

Date of the register: [1]295-1296/1878-1879

The sheets and the measure: 94 Sheets

Condition of the register: Good

Hakim or Naib:

1: Seyyid İbrahim Hakkı, Hakim-i Ruscuk (signature and stamp on the sheet 67)

2: Mehmet Emin, Vekil-i Naib-i Ruscuk²²⁶ (sheet 75)

Total number of the entries: 636 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 387 Permission to marriage

b: 94 Inheritance

c: 71 *Huccet*

d: 51 *Ilam*

e: 29 *Ma'ruz*

f: 3 *Murasala*

g: 1 *Waqf*

226 The entry which was recorded on the sheet 92 implies that he was appointed to deal with the inheritance related matters.

Library register number: R36

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 7 Dhulhijja 1150-10 Jumad al-Ula 1151/28.03.1738-26.08.1738

The sheets and the measure: 58 Sheets

Condition of the register: Half of the sheet 36 is missing

The qadis and/or naibs: Ebu Bekir Effendi,²²⁷ Qadi, (sheet 23B)

Total number of the entries: 286 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 88 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

b: 83 *Huccet*

c: 51 *Inheritance*

d: 44 *Murasala*

e: 19 *Ilam*

f: 1 *Ma'ruz*

²²⁷ He served between Shawwal 1150/January 1738-17 Jumad al-Ula [1]151/02.09.1738.

Library register number: R37

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: Dhulqa'da 1165-Sha'ban 1167/September 1752-May 1754

The sheets and the measure: 59 Sheets, 16:41 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Hatavani zâde Ahmet Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 1B)

2: Derviş zâde Seyyid Mehmet Effendi,²²⁸ Naib, (sheet 2A)

Military judge of Rumili: Abdullah, (sheet 1B)

Total number of the entries: 167 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 67 *Murasala*

b: 47 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

c: 30 Inheritance

d: 16 *Huccet*

e: 3 *Ilam*

f: 3 *Ma'ruz*

g: 1 *Waqf*

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 1B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Hatavânizâde Mevlana Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

...It is an official memorandum that Imamzâde Mehmet, the judge of Ruscuk, will be deposed in...Dhulqa'da Sharifa of this year 1165/September 1752. His position has been given to you. It is required that you have the disposal [of the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province], from the beginning of Muharram al-Haram [of the next year] (08.11.1752) until the end of the customary period and enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants .

The poor, Abdullah, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

228 He served between Muharram 1166/November 1752-7 Sha'ban 1167/30.05.1754.



Sheet 1B/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Ruscuk, Hatavanizâde Mevlana Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After greetings, it is an official memorandum that the military tax affairs of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you, from the beginning of Muharram al-Haram of this year 1166/08.11.1752. It is required that you write down inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the share of shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Abdullah, Military judge of Rumili.

Appointment of a naib by the newly appointed qadi:

Sheet 2A/1: Pillar among the judges, Dervişzâde Mevlana Seyyid Mehmet Effendi, the prosperous,

With many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the *niyâbet* (deputyship) of the province Ruscuk, which was granted and graced [to me] by the Sublime Ottoman State, has been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us, to take over from the beginning of Muharram al-Haram of this year 1166/08.11.1752. It is required that you go to the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month] and that you enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants ..., and the right to [divide] the inheritance of the deceased soldiers has also been delegated [to you]...and [it is required that] you pay attention to dividing and distributing [it] among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the sound shari'a. May your success for goodness endure.

From the sincere friends, Hatavanizâde Ahmet,
Judge in the city Ruscuk.

Library register number: R38

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1154-1155/1741-1742

The sheets and the measure: 95 Sheets, 41.5:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Some entries are illegible.

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Acem zâde İsmail Effendi, Qadi,²²⁹ (sheet 2B)

2: Ali Effendi, Naib, (sheet 1B)

Military judge of Rumili:

1: Mehmet Emin, (sheet 3B)

2: Ahmet Piri Mirza zâde, (sheet 6A)

Total number of entries: 324 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 86 *Murasala*

b: 78 *Huccet*

c: 67 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

d: 48 Inheritance

e: 36 *Ilam*

f: 8 *Ma'ruz*

g: 1 *Waqf*

Entitlement to the division of inheritance for about one month between 20.07.1741-19.08.1741:

Sheet 3B/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Ruscuk, İsmail Effendi, the prosperous,

After pure greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to your majesty, from the beginning of Jumad al-Ula of this year 1154/20.07.1741. It is required that you look into the aforesaid cases and mark and write down inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Emin, Military judge of Rumili.

²²⁹ He served between 28 Rabi al-Akhir 1154/13.07.1741-2 Dhulqa'da 1155/29.12.1742.

The period of the entitlement to the division of inheritance of the aforesaid İsmail Effendi was extended:

Sheet 6A/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, eminently affiliated (*rifâat-i intisâb*), the judge of Ruscuk, Acemzâde İsmail Effendi, the prosperous,

After brilliant greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you by us, from the sixth of Jumad al-Akhira of this year 1154/19.08.1741. It is required that you mark and write down inheritance of deceased soldiers and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Ahmet Piri Mirza zâde, Military judge of Rumili.

Appointment of a governor:

Sheet 23B: In summary: Seyyid İbrahim Hacı chalabi has been re-appointed to the post of governorship of Ruscuk (*kaymakamlık*). Signature: The poor Seyyid b. Mahmud, Chief (Nakib).²³⁰ At the beginning of Dhulhijja 1154/07.02.1742.

230 This probably refers to the chief of the descendants of the prophet Muhammad. Bayerle, *Pashas*, p. 117.

Library register number: R39

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1204-1205/1789-1791

The sheets and the measure: 110 Sheets, 43:16.5 cm

Condition of the register: Half of the sheets 43, 52, 53 and 95 are missing

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Osman Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 7A)

2: Hafız Hüseyin Effendi, Naib, (sheet 6B)

3: Sipâhi Halil Effendi, Naib, (sheet 7A)

Total number of entries: 285 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 175 *Hatt-ı Hümayun*

b: 101 *Murasala*

c: 6 *Huccet*

d: 3 Inheritance

Appointment of a naib called Hüseyin Effendi by the qadi Osman for a period of two months between 17.01.1790-17.03.1790:

Sheet 13B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, the pride of the honourable judges, Mevlana Hüseyin Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment have been transferred and handed over to your honourable majesty from the beginning of Jumad al-Ula of this year 1204/17.01.1790. It is required that you go to [Ruscuk] with the assistance of the Holy and the Exalted [God], and that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned month, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and of local people, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the purified exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

From the poor, Osman, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

Appointment of a naib called Sipâhi Halil Effendi by the aforesaid qadi for a period of approximately twelve months between 17.03.1790-06.03.1791:

Sheet 7A/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Sipâhi Halil Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the correspondence that the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty from the beginning of Recep al-Fard of this year 1204/17.03.1790, has been written and sent [to you]. When it is arrived, it is required that you assume the aforesaid deputyship from the aforementioned month, and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers in accordance with shari'a, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants . You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a of the Prophet. With cordial greetings. On the aforesaid date.

The poor, Osman, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

The extension of the service period of the aforementioned naib Halil Effendi by the aforesaid qadi Osman for a period of two months between 06.03.1791-06.05.1791:

Sheet 110B/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Halil Effendi, the prosperous,

After greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment have been transferred and handed over to your majesty from the beginning of Recep al-Murjaba of this year 1205/06.03.1791. It is required that you take control and assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants , and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and of local

people, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the purified exalted shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings.

From the poor, Osman, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

The service period of the aforementioned naib Halil Effendi was once more extended by the aforesaid qadi Osman:

Sheet 81B/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Halil Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment have been transferred and handed over to your majesty to take over from the 3rd day of Ramadan al-Mubarak of this year 1205/06.05.1791. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the aforementioned date, and mark and write down the inheritance of the [deceased] soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from enforcing the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants . With cordial greetings.

The poor, Osman, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

Library register number: R41

The law court: Dobrič (Bulgarian Principality)

Date of the register: 1310-1314/1892-1897

The sheets and the measure: 100 Sheets, 42:19 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total number of the entries: 357 Entries²³¹

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 198 Marriage

b: 92 *Muhala'a*

c: 54 Inheritance

d: 6 Divorce

e: 4 *Ilam*

f: 2 *Waqf*

g: 1 Heredity

²³¹ Sheet 32B indicates that the fee for the huccet was 26 Karaik and 50 santin.

Library register number: R42

The law court: Hacıoğlupazarı

Date of the register: 1213-1224/1798-1809

The sheets and the measure: 118 Sheets, 38:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Ahmet Nuri, Naib, (sheet 11A)
- 2: Derviş Abdullah, Qadi, (sheet 13A)
- 3: Seyyid Ahmet Tahir, Naib, (sheet 13A)
- 4: Seyyid Ahmet Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 20A)
- 5: Seyyid Mehmet Tahir, Qadi, (sheet 20A)
- 6: Hasan El-Hüsni, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 26B)
- 7: Mehmet Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 46)
- 8: Seyfeddin Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 49B)
- 9: Hafız Mustafa b. Hacı Hasan, Qadi, (sheet 49B)
- 10: Seyyid Osman, Naib and later Qadi, (sheet 56, 99A)
- 11: Seyyid Hafız Ali, Naib, (sheet 66B)
- 12: Seyyid Hacı Mehmet Salim b. Ali, Qadi, (sheet 77A)
- 13: Abdulgaffar Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 90A)
- 14: Mustafa Rashid, Qadi, (sheet 99A)

Military judge of Rumili:

- 1: Seyyid İbrahim İsmet, (sheet 32B)
- 2: Ahmet Muhtar, (sheet 90A)
- 3: Ahmet Şemseddin, (sheet 99A)

Total number of the entries: 317 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 155 *Murasala*
- b: 105 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- c: 43 *Huccet*
- d: 7 *Ma'ruz*
- e: 5 *Ilam*
- g: 2 *Inheritance*

Appointment of a naib called Seyyid Ahmet Effendi by the qadi named Ahmet Nuri for a period of approximately four months between 08.03.1799-05.07.1799:

Sheet 11A/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Hacıoğlupazarı, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment have been transferred and handed over to you to take over from the beginning of the month Shawwal al-Mukarram of this year 1213/08.03.1799. It is required that you, as deputy [judge], assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the aforementioned day, and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and to mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a of the Prophet. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Ahmet Nuri, judge in the province of Hacıoğlupazarı.

Appointment of a naib called Seyyid Mehmet Tahir Effendi by a qadi for a period of approximately two months between 05.07.1799-02.09.1799:

Sheet 20A/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Mehmet Tahir Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that [the shari'a affairs of] the province of Hacıoğlupazarı, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to you from the beginning of the month Safar al-Khayr of this year 1214/05.07.1799. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the aforementioned day, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and distribute it among the inhabitants and the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. (The sender of this letter is not recorded.)

Appointment of a naib called Seyyid Ahmet Tahir Effendi by the qadi named Derviş Abdullah for a period of approximately twelve and a half months between 02.09.1799-22.08.1800:

Sheet 23A/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Ahmet Tahir Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the *niyâbet* (deputyship) of the shari'a affairs of the province of Hacıoğlupazarı, which is at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, has been transferred and commissioned and handed over to you from the beginning of the month Rabi al-Akhir of this year 1214/02.09.1799. It is required that you, as deputy [judge], assume and have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned month, and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a of [the prophet] Ahmed. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Derviş Abdullah, judge in the province of Hacıoğlupazarı.

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 32B/2: Muharram al-Haram 1215/May 1800,

Derviş Abdullah, the judge (*mutasarrıf*) of Hacıoğlupazarı, will be deposed after one month from the end of the next month. His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to the prosperous and well-wisher Mevlana Mehmet b. Mehmet, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and as he has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province], from the beginning of Rabi al-Akhir of the aforementioned year (22.08.1800), for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 32B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, the prosperous, Mevlana Mehmet Effendi b. Mehmet,

After many greetings, Derviş Abdullah, the judge (*mutasarrıf*) of Hacıoğlupazarı, will be deposed after one month from the beginning of Safar al-Khayr of this year 1215/24.06.1800. His position has been given to you, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, you are from the honourable and reverend judges, and you have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Rabi al-Ukhra of the aforementioned year (22.08.1800), for the whole customary period and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid İbrahim İsmet, Military judge of Rumili.

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 49B/2: Sha'ban 1216/December 1801,

Seyfeddin, the judge of Hacıoğlupazarı, will be deposed from the end of the next month. His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Seyyid Hafız Mustafa b. Hacı Hasan al-Istanboli, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and has the kind help of the Sultan. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Shawwal al-Mukarram of the aforementioned year (04.02.1802), for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Copied from the sealed/certified original.

Hafız Mehmet, appointed as a naib.

Appointment of a naib called Seyyid Osman Effendi by the qadi named Seyyid Hafız Mustafa for a period of approximately seventeen and a half months between 04.02.1802-21.07.1803:

Sheet 49B/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Osman Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the *niyâbet* (deputyship) of the shari'a affairs of the province Hacıoğlupazarı, which is

at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to you, to take over as of the beginning of the month Shawwal al-Sharifa of this year 1216/04.02.1802. It is required that you assume and have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned date and enforce the judgments of the shari'a of the Prophet among the inhabitants, and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and of the citizens, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. The income of this division belongs to us.²³² You should not permit to deviate from the sound shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Hafız Mustafa, judge in the province of Hacıoğlu pazarı.

Extension of the service period of the aforesaid naib Osman Hıfzı Effendi by another qadi named Mehmet for a period of approximately five months between 21.07.1803-15.12.1803:

Sheet 63A/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, the pride of the judges, Mevlana Osman Hıfzı Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Hacıoğlu pazarı, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty from the beginning of Rabi al-Akhir of this year 1218/21.07.1803. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the affairs of the division of inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted prophetic shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet, judge in the province of Hacıoğlu pazarı.

232 Here, the judge demands that the income of the division of inheritance be sent to him. In normal circumstances, a portion of this income belongs to the naib.

Appointment of another naib called Seyyid Hafız Ali Effendi by the aforesaid qadi Mehmet for a period of approximately forty days between 15.12.1803-25.01.1803:

Sheet 66B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Hafız Ali Effendi,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the deputyship of the shari'a affairs of the province of Hacıoğlupazarı, which is at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, has been transferred and handed over to you to take over as of the beginning of the month Ramadan al-Mubarak of this year 1218/15.12.1803. It is required that you as deputy [judge] assume and have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned date, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet, judge in the province of Hacıoğlupazarı.

Petition for the judiciary post:

1: **Sheet 77A/2:** Recep al-Fard 1217/October 1802,

Mehmet, the judge of Hacıoğlupazarı, will be deposed after one month from the end of the next month. His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Seyyid Hacı Mehmet Salim b. Ali al-İstanbuli, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Shawwal al-Mukarram of the aforementioned year (25.01.1803) for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

2: **Sheet 90A/1:** Safar 1222/April 1807,

Hafız Hasan, the judge of Hacıoğlupazarı, will be deposed as of the end of the next month. His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Abdulgaffar, as he is recorded in the registry of the

former military judge with a third rank, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Rabi al-Akhir of the aforementioned year (08.06.1807) for eight months and that he completes the rest of the remaining customary period in another province, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 90A/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Abdulgaffar Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Hafız Hasan, the judge of Hacıoğlupazarı, will be deposed from the end of the month Rabi al-Ula of this year 1222/07.06.1807. His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge with a third rank, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the month Rabi al-Ukhra of the aforementioned year (08.06.1807), for only eight months and that you make an effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants, and complete the remaining customary period in another province, and write down and mark the ones which require registration from the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a, and you should not demand above the customary fees and should not charge for [the appointment of the] guardian and the maintenance huccets. You should carefully follow the honoured orders which were previously issued. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Ahmet Muhtar, Military judge of Rumili.

Appointment of a naib by the qadi Abdulgaffar:

Sheet 90A/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Hacıoğlupazarı, which are at my disposal in accordance with the registry, have been transferred and handed over to you from

the beginning of the month Rabi al-Ukhra of this year 1222/08.06.1807. It is required that you, as deputy [judge], assume and have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned date and that you should be careful and endeavour to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted and sound shari'a.

The poor, well-wisher to the exalted Ottoman state,
Abdulgaffar, judge in the province of Hacıoğlupazarı.

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 99A/2: Rabi al-Akhir 1223/May 1808,

Mustafa Rashid, the judge in Hacıoğlupazarı, will be deposed from the end of the next month. His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Seyyid Osman, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge with a third rank, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Jumad al-Akhir of the aforementioned year (25.07.1808), for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 99A/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Osman Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Mustafa Rashid, the judge of Hacıoğlupazarı, will be deposed from the end of the month Jumad al-Ula of this year 1223/24.07.1808. His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge with a third rank, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of the month Jumad al-Ukhra of the aforementioned year (25.07.1808), for the whole customary period and make an effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the ones which

require registration from the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a and that you should not demand above the customary fees and do not charge for [the appointment of the] guardian and the maintenance huccets. You should carefully follow the honoured orders which were previously issued. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Ahmet Şemseddin, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: R43 (Bulgarian Principality)

The law court: Hacıoğlupazarı

Date of the register: 28 Shawwal 1297-8 Kanun-u Evvel 1298/03.10.1880-20.12.1882

The sheets and the measure: Written 61 sheets, 48:18 cm

Condition of the register: Some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs: Mehmet Habibullah, the agent of the mufti of liva-i Varna, Province Hacıoğlupazarı, (signature and stamp on the sheet 22B)

Total number of the entries: 88 inheritance

Library register number: R44

The law court: Hacıoğlupazarı

Date of the register: [12]89-1294/1872-1877

The sheets and the measure: Written 81 sheets,

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Abdulgaffar, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 46A/2)

2: Seyyid Mehmet Rüşdü, Qadi, Ruscuk, (sheet 54, this probably was later attached to the register)

Total number of the entries: 124 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 122 Inheritance

b: 2 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

Library register number: R45

The law court: Hacıoğlupazarı

Date of the register: 29 Shawwal 1284-8 Rabi al-Awwal [12]88/23.02.1868-28.05.1871

The sheets and the measure: Written 70 sheets, 44.5.17.5

Condition of the register: Good, (2 sheets were probably later attached)

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Seyyid Hüseyin Hüsnü, Qadi, (stamp on the sheet 82B)

2: Mehmet Emin, Qadi, (sheet 96)

Total number of the entries: 639 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 350 *Huccet*

b: 181 *Ma'ruz*

c: 103 *Ilam*

d: 3 *Waqf*

e: 2 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

Library register number: R46 (Bulgarian Principality)

The law court: Dobriç (Mahkeme-i İslami/Islamic law court)

Date of the register: Rabi al-Akhir 1304-Ramadan 1306/January 1886-May 1889

The sheets and the measure: 101 Sheets, 41.5:16.5

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: İsmail Hakkı b. Hacı Salih, the agent of the mufti of livā-i Varna, (sheet 87A)

Total number of the entries: 210 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 74 Appointment of guardian

b: 50 Inheritance

c: 43 Divorce based on mutual consent (*muhala'a*)

d: 21 Declaration of maturity

e: 9 Heredity (*verâset*)

f: 4 Sale

g: 3 Agency (*vekâlet*)

h: 2 Maintenance

i: 2 *Waqf*

j: 1 Divorce

k: 1 Reconciliation

Library register number: R47 (Bulgarian Principality)

The law court: Dobriç

Date of the register: Ramadan 1306-Dhulhijja 1309/May 1889-July 1892

The sheets and the measure: 70 Sheets, 41.5:16 cm

Condition of the register: Good (A sheet was attached to the sheets between 17-18 and it was stamped by a name called Mehmet)

The qadis and/or naibs: Salim, the agent of the mufti of livâ-i Varna, (sheet 70A)

Total number of the entries: 212 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 75 Divorce based on mutual consent (*muhalâ'a*)
- b: 38 Appointment of guardian
- c: 37 Marriage contract
- d: 20 Inheritance
- e: 13 Declaration of maturity
- f: 8 Divorce
- g: 7 Agency (*vekâlet*)
- h: 5 Allocation of maintenance
- i: 5 Permission to guardian
- j: 2 Heredity (*verâset*)
- k: 2 Reconciliation

Library register number: R48

The law court: Hacıoğlupazarı

Date of the register: Rabi al-Awwal 1230-11 ن (Ramadan) 1236/February 1815-12.06.1821

The sheets and the measure: 82 Sheets, 45.5:16 cm

Condition of the register: Good, (one entry on the first sheet was crossed out.)

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Hacı İbrahim, Qadi, (sheet 13B)
- 2: Seyyid Lütfullah known as Mufti of Hacıoğlupazarı, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 32A)
- 3: Seyyid İbrahim Effendi, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 39B)
- 4: Seyyid Hafız Mehmet Sadık, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 46A)
- 5: Hafız Ahmet b. Mustafa, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 70B)
- 6: Mustafa, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 80B)

Military judge of Rumili:

- 1: Seyyid Mustafa Arab, (sheet 13B)
- 2: Hacı Hafız Ahmet Kamil, (sheet 57B)

Total number of the entries: 349 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 148 *Murasala*
- b: 111 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- c: 81 *Huccet*
- d: 5 *Inheritance*
- f: 3 *İlam*
- g: 1 *Ma'ruz*

Buyruldu of the military judge about the appointment of a qadi:

Sheet 13B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Mehmet Hafız Sadık b. Süleyman el-İskenderi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Hacı İbrahim, the judge (*mutasarrıf*) of Hacıoğlupazarı, will be deposed after three months from the end of Sha'ban al-Mu'azzam of this year 1230/06.08.1815. His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge with a third rank, and have the kind help of Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Dhulhijja of the aforementioned year (04.11.1815) for the whole customary period, and you [make an effort to enforce] the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mustafa Arab, Military judge of Rumili.

Appointment of a naib called Seyyid Lütfullah Effendi by the qadi named Seyyid Mehmet Sadık for a period of approximately seventeen and a half months between 04.11.1815-18.04.1817:

Sheet 13B/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Lütfullah Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province Hacıoğlupazarı, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment have been transferred and handed over to your majesty to take over from the beginning of Dhulhijja of this year 1230/04.11.1815. It is required that you, as deputy [judge], assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month] and mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings,

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Sadık,
judge in the province of Hacıoğlupazarı.

Appointment of a naib called Seyyid İbrahim Effendi by the qadi named İbrahim for a period of approximately two and a half months between

18.04.1817-05.07.1818:

Sheet 39B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid İbrahim Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province Hacıoğlupazarı, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty, to take over from the beginning of the month Jumad al-Akhira of this year 1232/18.04.1817. It is required that you, as deputy [judge], have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and you should make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants, and mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings,

The poor, İbrahim, judge in the aforesaid province.

Appointment of another naib called Lütfullah İbrahim Effendi by the aforesaid qadi İbrahim from 05.07.1818 until the end of his period in October 1818:

Sheet 54B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Lütfullah Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Hacıoğlupazarı, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty, from the beginning of the month Ramadan al-Sharif of this year 1233/05.07.1818. It is required that you, as deputy [judge], assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from [the beginning of] the aforementioned [month], and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants, and mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings,

The poor, İbrahim, judge in the aforesaid province.

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 57B/2: Jumad al-Akhira 1233/April 1818,

İbrahim, the judge (*mutasarrıf*) of Hacıoğlupazarı, will be deposed after four months from end of the next month. His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Hafız Ahmet b. Mustafa Yanbevi, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge with a third rank, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Dhulhijja of the aforementioned year (02.10.1818) for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 57B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Hafız Ahmet Effendi b. Mustafa Yanbevi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that [Hacı İbrahim], the judge (*mutasarrıf*) of Hacıoğlupazarı, will be deposed after four months from the end of Recep al-Fard of this year 1233/05.06.1818. His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge with a third rank, and as you have the kind help of Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Dhulhijja of the aforementioned year (02.10.1818), for the whole customary period, and you make an effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants, and you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers which require registration, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should avoid of and abstain from demanding beyond the customary fees. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Hacı Hafız Ahmet Kamil, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: R49 (Bulgarian Principality)

The law court: Dobriç, Varna

Date of the register: 2 Ramadan 1314-28 Dhulhijja 1316/04.02.1897-09.05.1899

The sheets and the measure: 60 Sheets, 40.5:16.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total number of the entries: 125 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 54 Marriage as a result of elopement

b: 42 Inheritance

c: 20 Divorce based on mutual consent (*muḥala'a*)

d: 4 Heredity

e: 3 Divorce

f: 1 Agency

g: 1 Reconciliation

Library register number: R50

The law court: Silistre

Date of the register: Sha'ban 1205- 17 ب (Recep) 1207/April 1791-
28.02.1793

The sheets and the measure: 99 Sheets, 50:17 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Seyyid Mustafa, Qadi, (sheet 2A)
- 2: Seyyid Hacı Mehmet Emin Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 87)

Military judge of Rumili: Abdullah, (sheet 2A)

Total number of the entries: 251 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 115 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- b: 71 *Huccet*
- c: 31 *Murasala*
- d: 30 *Inheritance*
- e: 2 *Ma'ruz*
- f: 1 *İlam*
- g: 1 *Waqf*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 2A/1: Sha'ban 1205/April 1791,

Seyyid Mustafa, the judge of Silistre, will be deposed after two months from end of the next month. His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Seyyid Hacı Mehmet Emin, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is from the honourable and reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province], from the beginning of Dhulhijja of the aforementioned year (01.08.1791), for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 2A/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Hacı Mehmet Effendi, from the honourable and reverend judges, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Seyyid Mustafa, the judge of (*mutasarrıf*) Silistre, will be deposed after two months from the end of Ramadan el-Mubarak of this year 1205/02.06.1791. His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of the aforementioned year (01.08.1791) for the whole customary period, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants . With cordial greetings.

The poor, Abdullah, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 2A/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Silistre, Mevlana Seyyid Hacı Mehmet Effendi, from the honourable and reverend judges,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division of inheritance of the army have been transferred to you, from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1205/01.08.1791. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Abdullah, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: R51

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: Rabi al-Awwal 1127-26 Jumad al-Akhira 1128/
March 1715-17.06.1716

The sheets and the measure: 72 Sheets, 43:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good, except for the sheet 31 which is torn

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Hafiz Ahmet b. Ibrahim known as the Imam of Han Selim Qadi,
(signature and stamp on the sheet 33B)

2: Abdullah, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 36A)

Total number of the entries: 308 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 120 *Huccet*

b: 70 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

c: 42 *Murasala*

d: 40 *Inheritance*

e: 34 *İlam*

f: 2 *Waqf*

Library register number: R52

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: 1147-1148/1734-1735

The sheets and the measure: 51 Sheets, 41:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Seyyid Mehmet, Qadi, (sheet, 1B)

2: Mehmet, Qadi, (sheet, 1B)

Military judge of Rumili: Dürri Mehmet, (sheet 1B)

Total number of the entries: 147 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 49 *Murasala*

b: 47 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

c: 38 *Huccet*

d: 8 *İlam*

e: 4 Inheritance

f: 1 *Ma'ruz*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 1B/2: Rabi al-Akhir 1147/August 1734,

Seyyid Mehmet, the judge of Ruscuk, will be deposed from end of the next month. His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Mehmet, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is from the honourable and reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the honourable clemency of the Ruler of the world. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Jumad al-Akhira of the aforementioned year (29.10.1734), for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 1B/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Mehmet Effendi, the prosperous,

With pure friendship...it is an official memorandum that Seyyid Mehmet, the judge of Ruscuk, [will be deposed] from the end of Jumad al-

Awwal of this year 1147/28.10.1734. His position has been given to you, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and you are from the honourable and the reverend judges, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Ruler of the world. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Jumad al-Akhira of the aforementioned year (29.10.1734) until completing the customary period and that you enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

From the poor, Dürri Mehmet, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 1B/4: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Ruscuk, Mehmet Effendi, the prosperous,

With pure friendship...it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division of inheritance of the army have been transferred to you from the beginning of Jumad al-Akhira of this year 1147/29.10.1734. It is required that you write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

From the poor, Dürri Mehmet, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: R53

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the register: Muharram 1220-20 ج (Jumad al-Awwal) 1225/April 1805-23.06.1810

The sheets and the measure: 149 Sheets, 43.5:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good, (entries recorded between 138-141 sheets are illegible)

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Ebu Bekir, Qadi, (sheet 2A)
- 2: Hasan Rüšdü Effendi, Naib, (sheet 2A)
- 3: Hüseyin, Qadi, (sheet 44B)
- 4: Mehmet Esad, Qadi, (sheet 78B)
- 5: Tezkireci zâde Nimetullah Naim Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 131B)
- 6: İzzet Salih, Qadi, (sheet 134A)

Military judge of Rumili: Seyyid Mustafa İzzet, (sheet 134A)

Total number of the entries: 384 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 141 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- b: 92 *Huccet*
- c: 77 *Murasala*
- d: 70 *Inheritance*
- e: 2 *Ma'ruz*
- f: 1 *İlam*
- g: 1 *Waqf*

Appointment of a naib called Hasan Rüšdü Effendi by the qadi named Ebu Bekir for a period of approximately twenty three months between 01.04.1805-11.03.1807:

Sheet 2A/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Hasan Rüšdü Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the deputyship of the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk, which have been at my

disposal in accordance with an appointment, are transferred and handed over to your majesty from the beginning of Muharram al-Haram of this year 1220/01.04.1805. It is required that you, in accordance with the deputyship, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the share which Allah, the Omniscient, prescribed. You should not permit to deviate from the sound shari'a.

The poor, Mektubi Ebu Bekir, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

The following document indicates that Nimetullah Naim Effendi was appointed as a naib by the qadi called Hüseyin.

Sheet 44B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Nimetullah Naim Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the deputyship of the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk, which have been at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, are transferred and handed over to your majesty to take over from the beginning of Muharram al-Haram of this year 1222/11.03.1807. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted honourable shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Hüseyin, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

In the following document, we see the aforementioned naib Nimetullah Naim Effendi being reappointed as a naib by another qadi named Mehmet Esad.

Sheet 78B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, our present naib Mevlana Tezkirecizâde Nimetullah Naim Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Ruscuk, which have been at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty, as in the past, from the beginning of Dhulhijja of this year 1223/18.01.1809. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Esad, judge in the province Ruscuk.

Extension of the service period of the aforesaid naib Nimetullah Naim Effendi at the request of a Serasker (military commander-in-chief):

Sheet 107A/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, our present naib Mevlana Nimetullah Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that since a piece of letter indicating that you have a good relationship with the residents of Ruscuk in which I have the disposal [of the shari'a affairs] in accordance with an appointment, and demanding that you continue to serve [as a naib was received] from the Vizier, governor of Silistre and commander-in-chief of Danube. His Excellency Mehmet Pasha, the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you as in the past, from the third of Rabi al-Akhir of this year [12]24/18.05.1809. Now, it is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the third of the aforementioned month, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the share which Allah, the most exalted, prescribed. You should not permit to deviate from

the exalted shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Esad, judge in the province of Ruscuk.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 134A/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and the reverend judges, the judge of Ruscuk, Mevlana İzzet Salih Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred to your majesty, from the beginning of Muharram al-Haram of this year 1225/06.02.1810. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted honourable shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mustafa İzzet, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: R54

The law court: Silistre

Date of the register: Rabi al-Awwal 1287-26 Dulhijja 1288/June 1870-07.03.1872

The sheets and the measure: 40 Sheets, 49:18 cm

Condition of the register: Good (it is very difficult to read between 15-17 sheets because of binding)

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total number of the entries: 196 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 98 *Ma'ruz*

b: 93 *Huccet*

c: 5 *Murasala*

Library register number: R55 (Bulgarian Principality)

The law court: Silistre

Date of the register: 1298-1305/1881-1888

The sheets and the measure: 118 Sheets, 48:18 cm

Condition of the register: Some parts of the some sheets are torn

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

The Clerk: Mustafa, (sheet 39A)

Total number of the entries: 579 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 156 Divorce based on mutual consent (*muhala'a*)
- b: 127 Appointment of guardian
- c: 78 Property claims
- d: 50 Marriage Contract
- e: 46 Allocation of maintenance
- f: 22 Heredity
- g: 16 Divorce
- h: 16 Obedience to husband
- i: 15 Reconciliation
- j: 13 Property sales
- k: 13 Donation
- l: 10 Inheritance
- m: 5 Declaration of maturity
- n: 3 *Waqf*
- o: 2 Appointment of Imam
- p: 2 Determination of affinity (*neseb*)
- r: 2 Dower
- s: 1 Agency
- t: 1 Cancellation of marriage because of *rada* (nursement)
- u: 1 Declaration of the beginning of Ramadan

Library register number: R56 (Bulgarian Principality)

The law court: Silistre

Date of the register: 9 Dhulhijja 1303-2 Sha'ban 1305/08.09.1886-14.04.1888

The sheets and the measure: 29 Sheets, 50:18.5 cm

Condition of the register: Some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total number of the entries: 58 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil: 58 Inheritance

Library register number: R57

The law court: Silistre

Date of the Register: 2 Muharram 1289-29 Dhulhijja 1289/12.03.1872-
27.02.1873

The sheets and the measure: 91 Sheets, 49:18 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Kadir Rüşdü, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 8B)
- 2: Seyyid Ahmet Hamdi, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 91A)

Total number of the entries: 545 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 310 *Huccet*
- b: 210 *Ma'ruz*
- c: 23 *Murasala*
- d: 2 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

Library register number: S1

The law court: Sofya

Date of the register: Muharram 1013/May 1604

The sheets and the measure: 2 Sheets, 41:14 cm

Condition of the register: Repaired, (some entries are illegible)

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total number of the entries: 17 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil: 17 *Hucet*

Library register number: S1, Bis

The law court: Sofya

Date of the register: 7 Sha'ban 1026- Shawwal 1027/10.08.1617-September 1618

The sheets and the measure: 135 Sheets, 42:15 cm

Condition of the register: A sheet was attached to the last sheet from another register, and the sheet 10 is torn

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Ziyaüddin Effendi famous as Nevali zâde, Qadi (sheet 74A)

2: Mustafa b. Mirza, Naib, (sheet 74A)

Total number of the entries: 827 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 553 *Huccet*

b: 127 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

c: 101 *İlam*

d: 45 *Murasala*

e: 1 Inheritance

Library register number: S4

The law court: Sofya

Date of the register: 5 Ramadan 1120-7 Jumad al-Akhira 1121/18.11.1708-14.08.1709

The sheets and the measure: 26 Sheets, 41:15 cm

Condition of the register: Some sheets are repaired (some entries are illegible)

The qadis and/or naibs: Mustafa, Qadi, (stamp on the sheet 26A)

Total number of the entries: 128 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 78 *Huccet*

b: 46 *İlam*

c: 2 *Waqf*

d: 1 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

e: 1 *Murasala*

Library register number: S6

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Jumad al-Akhira 1206-19 Jumad al-Ula 1209/January 1792-12.12.1794

The sheets and the measure: 136 Sheets, 42:15 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Seyyid Hafız İsmail, Qadi, (sheet 2A)
- 2: Mehmet, Qadi, (sheet 2A)
- 3: İbrahim Effendi, Naib, (sheet 2A)
- 4: Salih, Naib, (sheet 15A)
- 5: Hüseyin, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 13A)
- 6: Hafız Abdurrahman, (sheet 92A)

Military judge of Rumili: Abdullah, (sheet 2A)

Total number of the entries: 422 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 144 *Huccet*
- b: 133 Inheritance
- c: 80 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- d: 43 *Ma'ruz*
- e: 22 *İlam*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 2A/1: Jumad al-Akhira 1206/January 1792,

Mehmet, the judge of Vidin, has died and he has a lot of debts,²³³ and his creditors postponed them for several months by their mercy. His position has been granted to well-wisher Mevlana Seyyid Hafız İsmail, [to take over] after six months from end of the next month, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is from the honourable and the reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province], from the beginning

²³³ The entry does not mention anything about the origin of the debt of the qadi.

of Safar al-Khayr of the next year (18.09.1792) for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 2A/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and the reverend judges Mevlana Seyyid Hafız İsmail Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Mehmet, the judge of Vidin, has died and he has a lot of debts, and his creditors postponed them for several months by their mercy. His position has been granted to you [to take over] after six months from the end of Recep al-Fard of this year 1206/27.03.1792, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Safar al-Khayr of the next year (18.09.1792) for the whole customary period, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants . With cordial greetings.

The poor, Abdullah, Military judge of Rumili.

Appointment of a naib called İbrahim Effendi by the qadi named Hafız İsmail for a period of approximately eight months between 18.09.1792-12.05.1793:

Sheet 2A/13: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable judges Mevlana İbrahim Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the deputyship of the affairs of the province of Vidin, which is at my disposal in accordance with an appointment has been transferred and handed over to your majesty from the beginning of Safar al-Khayr of this year 1206/18.09.1792. It is required that God willing, you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from [the beginning of] the aforementioned [month], and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants , and mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

From the poor, Hafiz İsmail, judge in the province Vidin.

Appointment of another naib by the aforesaid qadi Hafiz İsmail:

Sheet 15A/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Salih Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the deputyship of the affairs of the province of Vidin, which has been at my disposal in accordance with an appointment has been transferred and handed over to your majesty from the beginning of Shawwal of this year 1207/12.05.1793. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the aforementioned date, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

From the poor, Seyyid Hafiz İsmail, judge in the province of Vidin.

Library register number: S8²³⁴

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 15 Jumad al-Akhira 1132-16 Dhulqa'da 1139/
24.04.1720-05.07.1727

The sheets and the measure: 50 Sheets, 41:15 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: Shaban b. Hacı Ali, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 35A)

Total number of the entries: 299 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 187 *Huccet*

b: 46 *Murasala*

c: 28 Inheritance

d: 22 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

e: 13 *İlam*

f: 2 *Ma'ruz*

g: 1 *Waqf*

²³⁴ S6, bis I-II are the registers (*tahrir defteri*) in which only properties were recorded.

Library register number: S9

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 1152-1154/1739-1742

The sheets and the measure: 105 Sheets, 42:15 cm

Condition of the register: Some sheets are repaired

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Hüseyin, Qadi, (sheet 3B)
- 2: Hacı Yusuf, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 25B)
- 3: İbrahim Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 45A)
- 4: Chalabizâde Hasan, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 46A)

Military judge of Rumili:

- 1: Mehmet Emin (sheet 2B)
- 2: Seyyid Mehmet Zeynelabidin, (sheet 3B)
- 3: Ahmet Selli Mirza zâde, (sheet 29B)

Total number of the entries: 322 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 215 *Huccet*
- b: 65 Inheritance
- c: 27 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- d: 15 *Murasala*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 3B/2: Muharram al-Haram 1152/April 1739,

İbrahim, the judge of Vidin, having completed his period of two months from the end of the next month and Hüseyin having completed his period of 18 months, will be deposed. His position has been conferred to well-wisher Hacı Yusuf, with a salary of daily 400 akçes, because it is now 25 real months, short of one month, since he left his post in Sağra-i Atik, and he is from the honourable and the reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Ruler of the World. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] for only 12 months when the time has come and he completes his remaining eight month [customary] period in another province, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 3B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Hacı Yusuf Effendi, the prosperous,

With the offering of appropriate greetings, it is an official memorandum that İbrahim, the judge of Vidin, having completed his period of two months from the end of Safar al-Khayr of this year 1152/7.06.1739 and afterwards having Hüseyin completed his period of 18 months will be deposed. His position has been given to you with a salary of daily 400 akçe, because, it is now 25 real months, short of one month, since you left your post in Sağra-i Atik, and as you are from the honourable and reverend judges, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Ruler of the World. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province for only twelve months when the time has come, and you make an effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants and complete your remaining eight month [customary] period in another province. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Zeynelabidin, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 2B/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin, Hacı Yusuf Effendi, the prosperous,

With the offering of pure greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army have been transferred to your majesty, from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1153/17.02.1741. It is required that you hear the aforesaid cases from the aforementioned date and mark and write down inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Emin, Military judge of Rumili.

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 29B/2: Recep al-Fard 1154/September 1741,

Hacı Yusuf, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed after three months from the end of the next month. His position has been given to well-wisher

Mevlana İbrahim Nakid, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and as he is from the honourable and the reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Ruler of the World. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province], from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa/February 1742, for only 12 months, and he completes his remaining eight month [customary] period in another province, *sadaka* is commended.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 29B/4: His Excellency, the eminent of the scribes, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin, Mevlana İbrahim Nakid Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division of inheritance of the army have been transferred to your majesty from the beginning of Dhulhijja of this year 1154/07.02.1742. It is required that you pay attention to writing down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers in the aforesaid province, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

From the poor, Ahmet Selli Mirzazâde, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S10

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 24 Muharram 1142-20 Dhulqa'da 1144/19.08.1729-15.05.1732

The sheets and the measure: 64 Sheets, 43:15 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Ahmet, Qadi, (sheet 3B)

2: Mehmet Hadi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 43A)

Total number of the entries: 230 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 88 *Huccet*

b: 80 Inheritance

c: 30 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

d: 15 *Murasala*

e: 9 *İlam*

f: 5 *Waqf*

g: 3 *Ma'ruz*

Library register number: S11

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Rabi al-Awwal 1188-25 Ramadan 1188/May 1774-

29.11.1774

The sheets and the measure: 43 Sheets, 41.5:16 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: Abdurrahman Saġnakzâde, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 43A)

Total number of the entries: 108 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 34 Inheritance

b: 32 *Huccet*

c: 22 *İlam*

d: 13 *Hatt-ı Humayun* (Imperial Edict)

e: 6 *Murasala* (Correspondence)

f: 1 *Ma'ruz*

Library register number: S12

The law court: Sofya

Date of the register: Jumad al-Ula 1082-20 Dhulhijja 1088/September
1671-13.02.1678

The sheets and the measure: 79 Sheets, 38:14.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: Basim Sami, Qadi, (sheet 1B)

Qassam/Divider of inheritance:

- 1: Sheikh Mehmet, (sheet 1B)
- 2: Qassam İbrahim, (signature and stamp on the sheet 46A)
- 3: Qassam Hüseyin, (signature and stamp on the sheet 48A)
- 4: Abdulgani el-Qassam, (signature and stamp on the sheet 55B)

Total number of the entries: 313 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 286 Inheritance
- b: 14 *İlam*
- c: 11 *Huccet*
- d: 1 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- e: 1 *Murasala*

Library register number: S13

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Rabi al-Awwal 1110-7 Jumad al-Akhira 1111/
September 1698-30.11.1699

The sheets and the measure: 33 Sheets, 38:14.5 cm

Condition of the register: This needs binding

The qadis and/or naibs: Mustafa b. Mehmet known as *çavuşzâde*,²³⁵
(signature and stamp on the sheet 16B)

Total Number of entries: 132 Entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 61 *Huccet*

b: 42 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

c: 14 Inheritance

d: 8 *İlam*

e: 7 *Murasala*

²³⁵ *Çavuş* refers to 'a military grade of soldiers of diverse duties.' Bayerle, *Pashas*, p. 29

Library register number: S14

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Rabi al-Awwal 1111-Sha'ban 1113/August 1699-January 1702

The sheets and the measure: 43 Sheets, 41:14 cm

Condition of the register: A small sheet is attached to the sheet 14

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Mustafa, Qadi, (sheet 1B)
- 2: Hacı Hüseyin b. Ahmet, Qadi, (stamp on the sheet 33B)
- 3: Hacı Üveysi, Qadi, (sheet 34A)
- 4: Mustafa, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 35A)

Military judge of Rumili: Seyyid Ali, (sheet 1B)

Total number of the entries: 214 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 81 *Huccet*
- b: 42 *Inheritance*
- c: 34 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- d: 30 *Murasala*
- e: 24 *İlam*
- f: 3 *Waqf*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 1B/2: Rabi al-Awwal 1111/August 1699,

An exalted Firman has been issued regarding the assignment of the post of the judiciary. Mustafa, the judge of Vidin, having completed his customary period as of the beginning of the aforementioned [month] will be deposed. His position has been conferred to well-wisher Mevlana Hacı Hüseyin, with a salary of daily 400 akçes...because it is now 62 months, short of two months...since he left his post in the province of Yenice-i Vardar, and he has the help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province], for the whole customary period when the time has come, *sadaka* is commended.

The following is the second petition of Hacı Hüseyin. Since his first

petition did not refer to the judicial authority of *İsferlik*,²³⁶ his second petition did. He was authorised to assume the judicial authority of not only Vidin but also *İsferlik*. This means that the income of the Law Court of *İsferlik* along with Vidin was conferred to him. He presumably sent a naib to *İsferlik*.

Sheet 1B/3: At the beginning of Jumad al-Ula 1111/25 October 1699, Mustafa, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of the next month. His position has been given to well-wisher Mevlana Hacı Hüseyin, who is recorded and written in the registry of the former military judge, and worthy of honour and grant. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province], with the right of *İsferlik* until completing the customary period from the beginning of Recep al-Fard of the aforementioned year (23.12.1699), as conferred in the past, *sadaka* is commended.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 1B/4: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin with the right of *İsferlik*, Hacı Hüseyin Effendi, the prosperous,

After the brilliant greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army have been transferred to you from the beginning of Recep al-Fard of this year 1111/23.12.1699. It is required that you write down inheritance of the deceased soldiers, which takes place in the aforesaid province from the aforementioned date, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. With cordial greetings. [This was] written at the beginning of Jumad al-Ula of the aforementioned year (25.10.1699).

From the poor, Seyyid Ali, Military judge of Rumili.

²³⁶ *İsferlik* was a judicial district of Vidin. Çakar, E., 'Kanuni Sultan Süleyman Kanun-Nâmesine Göre 1522 Yılında Osmanlı İmparatorluğu'nun İdari Taksimatı', *Fırat Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi*, vol. 12, No. 1, (2002), p. 270 (<http://web.firat.edu.tr/sosyalbil/dergi/arsiv/cilt12/say1/261-282.pdf>), accessed on 25.04.2010.

Library register number: S16

The law court: Sofya

Date of the register: Recep 1170-29 Jumad al-Ula 1171/March 1757-08.02.1758

The sheets and the measure: 58 Sheets, 43:16 cm

Condition of the register: Needs rebinding, (a paper with Bulgarian language is attached to the sheet 31B)

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Haşimi zâde Yahya Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 31B)

2: Mehmet Sadık, Naib, (sheet 3A)

Military judge of Rumili:

1: Ahmet, (sheet 4A)

2: Mehmet Salih, (sheet 4A)

Total number of the entries: 153 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 62 *Murasala*

b: 34 *Huccet*

c: 32 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

d: 22 Inheritance

e: 3 *Ma'ruz*

Entitlement to the division of inheritance for a period of approximately eight months between 22.03.1757-13.11.1757:

Sheet 4A/2: His Excellency, the honourable, the virtuous, the esteemed Effendi,

With the offering of appropriate prayers and splendidous salutations, our desire is that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province Sofya, which is at your administration, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty from the beginning of Recep al-Fard of this year 1170/22.03.1757. It is required and we expect that you pay attention and make a good effort in accordance with the sound [shari'a] to mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers in the aforesaid province, and to divide and to distribute it among the inheritors

in accordance with shari'a.

The poor, Ahmet, Military judge of Rumili.

Arrived at the beginning of Recep 1170/22.03.1757

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 4A/3: To his honourable law court, Sofya, his Excellency, the honourable, the prosperous Effendi,

With the offering of many appropriate prayers and different splendidous salutations, our desire is that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province Sofya, which is at your administration, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty from the beginning of Rabi al-Ula of this year 1171/13.11.1757. We expect that you pay attention and make a good effort to mark and write down inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and to divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia.

From the sincere friends, Mehmet Salih, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S17

The law court: Sofya

Date of the register: 1164/1751

The sheets and the measure: 29 Sheets, 25.5:15 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total number of the entries: 74 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 28 Inheritance

b: 21 *Huccet*

c: 18 *İlam*

d: 7 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

Library register number: S18

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 29 Rabi al-Akhir 1153-24 ٤ (Muharram) 1154/

24.07.1740-11.04.1741

The sheets and the measure: 27 Sheets, 41:15 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Hüseyin Effendi, Qadi, (sheet (8A)

2: Mustafa, (stamp on the sheet 21A)

Total number of the entries: 84 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 28 Inheritance

b: 21 *Huccet*

c: 20 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

d: 13 *Murasala*

e: 2 *İlam*

Library register number: S19

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 3 Safar 1139-3 Safar 1142/30.09.1726-28.08.1729

The sheets and the measure: 89 Sheets, 42:15 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Mehmet eş-şehit Muslimzâde, Qadi, (stamp on the sheet 9B)

2: Rabbi, Kesiratü'l-menni b. Ali Mehmet, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 11B)

3: Seyyid Mehmet, Qadi, (sheet 17B)

Total number of entries: 393 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 165 *Huccet*

b: 125 *Inheritance*

c: 30 *Murasala*

d: 29 *İlam*

e: 22 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

f: 22 *Ma'ruz*

Library register number: S20

The law court: Sofya

Date of the register: 9 Jumad al-Akhira 1151-8 Rabi al-Akhir 1152/
24.09.1738-15.07.1739

The sheets and the measure: 18 Sheets, 41:15 cm

Condition of the register: Repaired

The qadis and/or naibs: Seyyid Abdulkadir, Qadi, (signature and stamp
on the sheet 18A)

Total number of the entries: 65 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 26 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

b: 14 *Huccet*

c: 14 *Murasala*

d: 10 Inheritance

e: 1 *İlam*

Library register number: S20A

The law court: Sofya

Date of the register: 2 Rabi al-Akhir 1140-20 Jumad al-Akhira 1140/
17.11.1727-02.02.1728

The sheets and the measure: 8 Sheets, 41:15 cm

Condition of the register: Repaired

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total number of the entries: 25 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 15 *İlam*

b: 9 *Huccet*

c: 1 Inheritance

Library register number: S21

The law court: Sofya

Date of the register: Safar al-Khayr 1175-5 Rabi al-Akhir 1176/September
1761-24.10.1762

The sheets and the measure: 95 Sheets, 42:16 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Ankaravi Mehmet Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 42)
- 2: Halil Effendi, (sheet 12B)

Military judge of Rumili: Osman, (sheet 3B)

Total number of entries: 166 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 62 Inheritance
- b: 49 *Murasala*
- c: 42 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- d: 13 *Huccet*

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 3B: His Excellency, the honourable, the virtuous Effendi, to his esteemed presence [no name was recorded],

With the offering of the different prayers and many greetings; our desire is that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Sofya have been transferred and handed over to your honour by our sincerity, starting with the beginning of Safar al-Khayr of this year 1175/01.09.1761. We expect that you pay attention and make a good effort to mark and to write down inheritance of the deceased soldiers in the aforesaid province from the aforementioned date, and to divide and to distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a.

From the sincere friends, the poor, Osman, Military judge of Rumili.

It reached us at the beginning of Safar al-Khayr 1175/01.09.1761.

Library register number: S22

The law court: Sofya

Date of the register: Dhulqa'da 1178-5 Shawwal 1179/April 1765-17.03.1766

The sheets and the measure: 58 Sheets, 44.5:15 cm

Condition of the register: Good, (the sheets are very thin and needs to be carefully handled)

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Mehmet Effendi Said known as Muabberzâde, Qadi, (sheet 2B)

2: Hacı Mahmut Effendi, Naib, (sheet 3A)

3: Osman Effendi b. Ahmet b. Mehmet, Naib, (stamp on the sheet 46A)

Military judge of Rumili: Osman, (sheet 2B)

Total number of entries: 114 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 49 *Murasala*

b: 25 Inheritance

c: 20 *Huccet*

d: 20 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the honourable, the virtuous, the affectionate Effendi, to his esteemed presence, [no name was recorded. This, however, should be Mehmet Said as we see him appointing a naib in the following entry.]

With the offering of the different prayers and many greetings; our desire is that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Sofya, have been transferred and handed over to your Excellency by our sincerity, from the beginning of Dhulqa'da Sharifa of this year 1178/22.04.1765. We expect that you pay attention and make a good effort to mark and to write down inheritance of the deceased soldiers in the aforesaid province from the aforementioned date, and to divide and to distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the share which Allah prescribed.

Sincerely, Osman, Military judge of Rumili.

It reached us at the beginning of Dhulqa'da 1178/22.04.1765.

Appointment of a naib called Osman Effendi by the qadi named Mehmet Said for a period of approximately eight months between 22.04.1765-14.12.1765:

Sheet 3A: The pride of the judges, the honourable, the measure of law, Mevlana Osman Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that your majesty has been appointed as naib to [the shari'a affairs of] the province of Sofya, which had been granted [to me] with an appointment, to take over from the beginning of Dhulqa'da Sharifa of this year 1178/22.04.1765. It is required that you enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a in the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month] as our naib. With cordial greetings. On the aforesaid date.

From the poor, Mehmet Said, judge in the city Sofya
It reached us at the beginning of Dhulqa'da 1178/22.04.1765.

Appointment of a mudarris as a naib by the aforesaid qadi Mehmet Said upon a commandment:

Sheet 3A: The honourable, the measure of law, Mevlana, the pride of the honourable professors, Hacı Mahmut Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Sofya, which had been at my disposal, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty in compliance with the exalted commandment, to take over from the beginning of Recep al-Fard of this year 1179/14.12.1765. It is required that you pay attention to enforcing the judgments of the exalted shari'a between the residents of the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned month and year, and to mark and write down inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and to divide and distribute them among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the sound shari'a. Success is from Allah.. With cordial greetings. On the aforesaid date.

From the poor, Muabberzâde Mehmet Said, judge in the city Sofya.

Library register number: S23

The law court: Sofya

Date of the register: 2 Dhulhijja 1206-27 Safar 1208/22.07.1792-04.10.1793

The sheets and the measure: 103 Sheets, 44.5:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Raif Hasan, Naib, (sheet 14B)

2: Hasan Esad, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 100A)

Military judge of Rumili: Veliyüddin Effendizâde Mehmet Emin, (sheet 2B)

Total number of entries: 222 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 104 Inheritance

b: 60 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

c: 51 *Murasala*

d: 7 *Huccet*

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the honourable, the virtuous [no name was recorded],

With the offering of the prayer that your health may endure; our desire is that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Sofya, which had been at our disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your honourable majesty, from the beginning of Safar al-Khayr of this year 1207/18.09.1792. We expect that you pay attention to marking and to writing down inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the will which Allah, the Most Holy, the most Wise prescribed.

From the sincere friends, Veliyüddin Effendizâde Mehmet Emin,
Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S24

The law court: Sofya

Date of the register: Recep 1203-1206/²³⁷1788-1791

The sheets and the measure: 30 Sheets, 43.5:16 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total number of the entries: 250 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 202 Huccet

b: 20 İlam

c: 18 Murasala

d: 10 Muhala'a

²³⁷ The last entry is dated 1218/1803.

Library register number: S25

The law court: Sofya

Date of the register: Rabi al-Awwal 1190-29 Safar 1191/April 1776-08.04.1777

The sheets and the measure: 52 Sheets, 42:16 cm

Condition of the register: Repaired

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Feyzullah Effendi al-Kirimi, Qadi, (stamp on the sheet 1B)
- 2: Hacı Mehmet, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 51B)

Military judge of Rumili:

- 1: Seyyid Mehmet Şerif, (sheet 1B)
- 2: Seyyid İbrahim el-Hüseyni, (sheet 1B)

Total number of the entries: 142 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 49 *Murasala*
- b: 42 Inheritance
- c: 29 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- d: 18 *Huccet*
- e: 4 *İlam*

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 1B: His Excellency, the honourable, the virtuous, dear Effendi,

With the offering of prayers and greetings; our deep desire is that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Sofya, which had been at our disposal, have been transferred and handed over to your highness, from the beginning of Rabi al-Ula of this year 1190/20.04.1776. You are responsible for and we expect that you pay attention to mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers in the aforesaid city, and to divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. May your health endure.

From the sincere friends, Seyyid Mehmet Şerif,
Military judge of Rumili.

Appointment of a naib by the qadi:

Sheet 1B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana, Hacı Mehmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the *niyâbet* of the shari'a affairs of the province of Sofya, which I have the disposal with the rank of Filibe province that was granted and was offered to me by his kindness the Sultan, has been transferred and handed over to you, to take over from the beginning of the month of Rabi al-Ula of this year 1190/20.04.1776. It is required that you go to [Sofya] and take over [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and mark and write down inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. You should be very careful about this. With cordial greetings.

From the poor, Feyzullah, judge in the province of Sofya.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 1B: His Excellency, the honourable, the eminent, the revered Effendi, to his honourable law court,

With the offering of the shining greetings; our desire is that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Sofya, which had been at the disposal of our administration, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us, from the beginning of Jumad al-Akhira of this year 1190/18.07.1776. It is required and we expect that you mark and write down inheritance of the deceased soldiers in the aforesaid province, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. May your kindness endure.

From the sincere friends, Seyyid İbrahim el-Hüseyni,
Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S25A

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 1155-1158/1742-1745

The sheets and the measure: 90 Sheets, 39:14 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: İbrahim Nakid, Qadi, (sheet 2B)
- 2: Ali Effendi, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 55B)
- 3: Hasan Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 2 B)
- 4: Chalabi zâde Hüseyin Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 43B)
- 5: Çakır Hüseyin²³⁸ Effendi b. Hasan, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 48A)
- 6: Seyyid İsmail Effendi, Naib, (sheet 56A)

Military judge of Rumili:

- 1: Seyyid Zeynelabidin, (sheet 2B)
- 2: Mehmet Said, (sheet 43B)

Total number of the entries: 324 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 121 Inheritance
- b: 120 *Huccet*
- c: 41 *Murasala*
- d: 22 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- e: 20 *İlam*

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Hasan Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that İbrahim Nakid, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of Dhulqa'da of this year 1155/26.01.1743. His position has been given to you, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and you are from the honourable and the reverend judges, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve

238 He was the son of Hasan Effendi who was appointed as a judge to the court but did not serve, rather he sent his son Hüseyin Effendi as his naib.

the clemency of the Ruler of the world. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of the aforementioned year (27.01.1743) for the whole customary period as conferred in the past, and enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Zeynelabidin, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin, Mevlana Hasan Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you by us, from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1155/27.01.1743. It is required that you mark and write down inheritance of the deceased soldiers in the aforesaid province, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Zeynelabidin, Military judge of Rumili.

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 43B: Jumad al-Akhira 1157/July 1744,

Hasan, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of the next month. His position has been given to well-wisher Chalabizâde Hüseyin, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and he is from the honourable and the reverend judges, and he has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Ruler of the world. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Sha'ban al-Mu'azzam of the aforesaid year (09.09.1744) for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 43B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Chalabizâde Hüseyin Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Hasan, the

judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of Recep al-Fard of this year 1157/08.09.1744. His position has been given to you, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and you are from the honourable and reverend judges, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Ruler of the world. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Sha'ban al-Mu'azzam of the aforementioned year (09.09.1744), for the whole customary period, and that you enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Said, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 43B: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin, Mevlana Chalabizâde Hüseyin Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you by us, from the beginning of Sha'ban al-Mu'azzam of this year 1157/09.09.1744. It is required that you mark and write down inheritance of the deceased soldiers, which takes place in the aforesaid province, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Said, Military judge of Rumili.

Appointment of a naib called Ali Effendi by the qadi named Chalabizâde Hüseyin for a period of approximately eight months between 09.09.1744-03.05.1745:

Sheet 43B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana, Ali Effendi, the prosperous,

After many and pure greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Vidin, which had been at our disposal, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty, to take over from the beginning of Sha'ban al-Mu'azzam of this year 1157/09.09.1744. It is required that when you arrive, you assume [the shari'a affairs] of the aforesaid province, and enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the

inhabitants, and mark and write down inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings. [This was] written on the aforesaid date.

From the poor, Chalabizâde Hüseyin Effendi,
judge in the province of Vidin.

Appointment of another naib by the aforesaid qadi Chalabizâde Hüseyin:

Sheet 56A: The pride of the judges, Seyyid İsmail Effendi, may his greatness endure,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs and [the affairs of] the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Vidin, to which we were appointed, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty, to take over from the beginning of Rabi al-Ukhra of this year 1158/03.05.1745. It is required that when you arrive, you assume [the shari'a affairs] of the aforesaid province, and be careful in the enforcement of the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings. [This was] written on the aforesaid date.

The poor, Chalabizâde Hüseyin Effendi,
presently judge in the province of Vidin.

Library register number: S26

The law court: Sofya

Date of the register: 1186/1772

The sheets and the measure: 61 Sheets, 44:16 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Mehmet Zihni b. Hacı Mehmet b. Mehmet, Qadi, (sheet 1B)
- 2: Haşir Effendi, Naib, (sheet 1B)
- 3: Mustafa Shakir Effendi, Naib, (sheet 2A)
- 4: Mehmet Debbusi Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 2A)

Military judge of Rumili: İbrahim Ebu ismi?, (sheet 1B)

Total number of the entries: 155 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 43 Inheritance
- b: 39 *Murasala*
- c: 33 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- d: 32 *Huccet*
- e: 8 *İlam*

Appointment of a naib:

Sheet 1B: The measure of the virtue, the follower of the shari'a, the pride of the professors, Haşir Effendi, the prosperous,

After brilliant greetings, our pure intention is that the prophetic shari'a and the trust of the Mustafaviyye affairs of the province of Sofya, and the cases and the disputes which take place in the law court of the aforesaid province, in which the Most Holy Allah granted to us with full blessing and conferred to this poor slave by the Imperial decree (*Hatt-ı Humayun*, *şevket-i makrûn*), have been transferred to your majesty, as you are honest and upright, to take over from the beginning of Rabi al-Ukhra of this year 1186/02.07.1772. This correspondence has been written and given to you. It is required that you hear the cases of the disputants in the law court, and make a good effort and endeavour to enforce the judgments of the shari'a which Allah revealed. You should not permit to deviate from the great shari'a and you should fully abstain from injustice and affection at the time of hearing the cases. You should follow this correspondence. With cordial greetings.

[No name was recorded.]

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 1B: The honourable, the virtuous, his Excellency, Effendi,

With the offering of the precious prayers; our desire that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Sofya, which is at our disposal, have been transferred to your attention, from the beginning of the month Rabi al-Ukhra of this year 1186/02.07.1772. This letter has been written. We expect that God willing, when you arrive, beginning with the aforementioned date, you pay attention and do your best to mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers in the aforesaid province, and divide and to distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. May your honour and virtue endure.

From the sincere friends, İbrahim Ebu, Military judge of Rumili.

Appointment of a naib by the qadi:

Sheet 2A: His Excellency, the measure of the virtue, the follower of the spiritual knowledge, the pride of the judges, Mustafa Shakir Effendi, the prosperous,

After brilliant greetings, our pure intention is that the deputyship of the shari'a affairs, which take place in the law court of the province of Sofya, which had been at our disposal, has been transferred and handed over to you by us, from the beginning of Recep al-Fard of this year 1186/28.09.1772. This shari'a correspondence has been given to you. It is required that from the beginning of the aforementioned [month] do your best and fully seize [the shari'a affairs] and act honestly in hearing the cases between the disputants and resolving the issues, and in the enforcement of the judgments of the prophetic shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a and fully abstain from injustice and affection. You should follow this correspondence. With cordial greetings.

From the sincere friends, Mehmet Debbusi,
judge in the province of Sofya.

Library register number: S27

The law court: Sofya

Date of the register: 1220-1222/1805-1806

The sheets and the measure: 75 Sheets, 44.5:15 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Hacı Ahmet, Qadi, (sheet 2B)
- 2: Yahyazâde Mehmet Said, Naib, (sheet 2B)
- 3: Yusuf Effendi, Naib, (sheet 2B)
- 4: Mehmet Salih Effendi, Naib, (sheet 2B)

Total number of the entries: 175 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 72 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- b: 55 *Murasala*
- c: 42 Inheritance
- d: 5 *Huccet*
- e: 1 *İlam*

Appointment of a naib called Mehmet Salih Effendi by the qadi named Ahmet from 29.06.1805 until March 1806:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, the virtuous, the pride of the judges, Mehmet Sait Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, our desire is that the shari'a affairs of the province of Sofya, which was offered and conferred and granted to this poor person in this year 1220/1805, in accordance with Mevleviyet, with a high honourable commandment of his kindness, renowned Ruler of the World, have been transferred and handed over to your prosperous majesty by us, to take over from the beginning of Rabi al-Ukhra of the aforementioned year (29.06.1805). It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned month and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the illustrious shari'a, and mark and write down inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Ahmet, judge in the province of Sofya.

Appointment of another naib called Yusuf Effendi by the aforesaid qadi Hacı Ahmet:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of the shari'a, the virtuous, Yusuf Effendi, may your reverence endure,

After purifying greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Sofya, which was offered and conferred and granted to this poor person to take over from the end of Rabi al-Ukhra of this year 1220/27.07.1805, in accordance with Mevleviyet, with a high honourable commandment of his kindness, the Ruler of the World, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us, from Muharram of this year 1221/March 1806. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from Muharram of the aforementioned year and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the honourable shari'a, and mark and write down inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the honourable exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, el-Hâc Ahmet, judge in the province of Sofya.

Library register number: S29

The law court: Sofya

Date of the register: 11 Shawwal 1222-21 Rabi al-Awwal 1224/12.12.1807-06.05.1809

The sheets and the measure: 75 Sheets, 45:15 cm

Condition of the register: The sheets have been repaired and rebound

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Hafiz Seyyid Mustafa Effendi, Naib, (signature on the sheet 25A)
- 2: Süleyman Effendizâde Mehmet Sait, Qadi, (signature and the stamp on the sheet 36A)

Total number of the entries: 218 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 96 Inheritance
- b: 65 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- c: 53 *Murasala*
- d: 4 *Huccet*

Library register number: S30 bis

The law court: Sofya

Date of the register: 1 Dhulhijja 1212-15 Rabi al-Awwal 1214/17.05.1798-17.08.1799

The sheets and the measure: 98 Sheets, 45.5:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Slightly stained, (The sheets between 61-69 are empty)

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Seyyid Hacı Abdullah Effendi, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheets 50B and 61A)

2: Hacı Abdulfettah Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 2A)

Total number of the entries: 306 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 114 *Murasala*

b: 82 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

c: 76 Inheritance

d: 24 *Huccet*

e: 10 *İlam*

An appointment of a naib:

Sheet 2A: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Abdullah Effendi, the prosperous,

After greetings, it is an official memorandum that the *niyâbet* [of the shari'a affairs] of the province of Sofya, which was conferred and graced and granted to this poor person by the exalted Sultan, has been transferred and handed over to you from the beginning of the month Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1212/17.05.1798. It is required that you make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a of the Prophet and to execute the commands of the exalted Mustafaviyye, may God's mercy be upon him. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a.

From the poor, Hacı Abdulfettah, judge in the province of Sofya.

Library register number: S31

The law court: Sofya

Date of the register: Muharram 1230-23 Rabi al-Awwal 1230/December 1814-05.03.1815

The sheets and the measure: 32 Sheets, 45.5:16 cm

Condition of the register: Some sheets are damaged

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Seyyid Mehmet Effendi, Naib, (sheet 1B)

2: Halil Rüşdü, Qadi, (sheet 1B)

3: Hacı Ebu Bekir Effendi, Naib (sheet 68 B)

Total number of the entries: 102 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 56 Inheritance

b: 31 *Huccet*

c: 10 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

d: 5 *İlam*

Library register number: S32

The law court: Sofya

Date of the register: Jumad al-Ula 1228-15 Rabi al-Akhir 1229/May 1813-06.4.1814

The sheets and the measure: 79 Sheets, 43.5:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Selim Mollazâde Mevlana Seyyid Abdurrahim, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 32A)

2: Seyyid Mehmet Effendi, Naib, (appointment letter 32 B)

3: Kefevi zâde Seyyid Ahmet, Naib (signature on the sheet 29B)

Total number of the entries: 196 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 89 Inheritance

b: 57 *Murasala*

c: 48 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

d: 2 *İlam*

Appointment of a naib by the qadi:

Sheet 32B: The pride of the professors, the virtuous Seyyid Mehmet Effendi, may [your] success endure,

After appropriate greetings, it is an official memorandum that the deputyship of [the shari'a affairs of] the province of Sofya, which had been at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, has been handed over to your majesty, from the beginning of Rabi al-Akhir of this year 1229/23.03.1814. It is required that you need to be vigilant in enforcing the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants. The affairs of the division of inheritance of the soldiers of the aforesaid province have been handed over [to you] by us. [You] should write down the items [inheritance] of the [deceased] soldiers. You should endeavour to collect the customary taxes and to send them to us. With cordial greetings

The poor, Selim Mollazâde Abdurrahman,
judge in the province of Sofya.

Library register number: S33

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 1208-1210/1793-1795

The sheets and the measure: 45 Sheets, 42:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total number of the entries: 27 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil: 27 *Huccet*

Library register number: S34

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Rabi al-Awwal 1233-17 Jumad al-Akhira 1235/
January 1818-01.04.1820

The sheets and the measure: 114 Sheets, 42:16 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: İsmail Latif, Qadi, (sheet 15A)
- 2: Seyyid Selim, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 15A)
- 3: Ahmet Rashid Effendi, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 64 B)

Total number of the entries: 558 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 342 *Huccet*
- b: 148 Inheritance
- c: 40 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- d: 25 *Murasala*
- e: 3 *İlam*

Appointment of a naib:

Sheet 15A: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Ahmet Rashid Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the deputyship of the shari'a affairs of the province of Vidin, which had been at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, has been transferred and handed over to your majesty as a naib by us, from the beginning of Jumad al-Ukhra of this year 1233/08.04.1818. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of the] aforesaid province and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants and you mark and write down inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the share which Allah, the most Holy, prescribed. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted prophetic shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, İsmail Latif, judge in the province of Vidin.

Library register number: S35

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: ج (Jumad al-Awwal) 1226-Jumad al-Akhira 1228/
May 1811-June 1813

The sheets and the measure: 68 Sheets, 44:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: Kahovalı Mehmet Sami Effendi²³⁹

Total number of the entries: 280 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 131 Inheritance
- b: 80 *Murasala*
- c: 52 *Huccet*
- d: 11 *Hatt-ı Humayun* (Imperial Edict)
- e: 4 *Ma'ruz*
- f: 1 *İlam*
- g: 1 *Waqf*

²³⁹ This name was recorded in the catalogue, but I am not able to find it in the register.

Library register number: S36

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Recep 1231-22 Safar 1233/May 1816-01.01.1818

The sheets and the measure: 59 Sheets, 45:15 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Ahmet Nazif Effendi, Naib, (sheet 3B)
- 2: Eşteyabeti zâde Lütfullah Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 25 B)
- 3: Seyyid Selim Effendi, Naib, (sheet 36A)
- 4: Ahmet Latif, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 25A)
- 5: Mehmet Emin, Qadi, (sheet 25B)

Military judge of Rumili:

- 1: Kethuda zâde Mehmet Sadık, (sheet 3B)
- 2: Sıdkı zâde Ahmet Rashid, (sheet 36A)
- 3: İsmail Latif, (sheet 53A)

Total number of the entries: 186 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 90 Inheritance
- b: 41 *Huccet*
- c: 24 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- d: 17 *Murasala*
- e: 8 *İlam*
- f: 3 *Ma'ruz*
- g: 3 *Waqf*

The following is an appointment of a naib by the military judge. This entry indicates that this province was given to the military judge. This means that the income of this law court was allocated to the military judge.

Sheet 3B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Ahmet Nazif Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that since I have the administrative authority (*nezâret-i hükümet*) on the shari'a affairs of the province of Vidin, it has been transferred to you, from the beginning of the Recep al-Fard of this year 1231/28.05.1816. It is required that you have

the disposal [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] and that you pay a careful attention and be upright, and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants, and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings

The poor, Kethudazâde Mehmet Sadık, Military judge of Rumili.

The following entry is a petition for the judiciary post. It is to be noted that the dead person was not removed from the post. This is because, as we have seen in other entries, the heir of the deceased judge was entitled to take the income of the court until his customary period is over.

Sheet 25B: Recep 1231/May 1816,

Mehmet Emin, the judge of Vidin, has died. He will be deposed after four months from the end of the next month. His position has been given to well-wisher Eşteyabetizâde Lutfullah, as offered in the past, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge with the second rank, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province], for only two months from the beginning of Muharram al-Haram of the next year (21.11.1816) and that he completes the remaining customary period in another province, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 25B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Eşteyabetizâde Lutfullah Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Mehmet Emin, the judge (*mutasarrıf*) of Vidin, has died. He will be deposed after four months from the end of Sha'ban al-Mu'azzam of this year 1231/25.07.1816. You should have the disposal of his post [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] as offered in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge with the second rank, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown, and you pay attention and be

upright, and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of shari'a among the inhabitants, and mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a, and complete your remaining customary period in another province. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Kethudazâde Mehmet Sadık, Military judge of Rumili.

In the following document, we see the appointment of a naib by the military judge. This suggests that the income of this law court was given to the military judge. The naib was appointed by the military judge for a period of approximately eight months between 04.03.1817-11.11.1817.

Sheet 36A: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Selim Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Vidin have been transferred to you to take over as naib, from the fifteenth of Rabi al-Akhir of this year 1232/04.03.1817. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province and that you enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted prophetic shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Sıdkızâde Ahmet Rashid, Military judge of Rumili.

As in the case above, Seyyid Selim Effendi was appointed as a naib by the by the military judge, who will receive a portion of the income of this law court:

Sheet 53A: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana, from the honourable judges, Seyyid Selim Effendi, may your success endure,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Vidin, which are at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty as naib, from the beginning of Muharram al-Haram of this year [12]33/11.11.1817. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the aforementioned month, and make a good

effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and mark and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a which Allah, the most High, prescribed. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted prophetic shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, İsmail Latif, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S37

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Muharram 1182-Rabi al-Akhir 1184/May 1768-July 1770

The sheets and the measure: 149 Sheets, 43:16 cm

Condition of the register: This needs to be carefully handled as some sheets are torn

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Mehmet Sadık, Qadi, (sheet 3B)
- 2: Seyyid Mehmet Effendi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 99B)
- 3: Hacı Ömer, Qadi, (sheet 100 B)
- 4: Seyyid Mustafa Effendi, Naib, (sheet 100B)

Military judge of Rumili:

- 1: Seyyid Abdullah, (sheet 3B)
- 2: Şerif zâde Seyyid Mehmet, (sheet 100B)

Total number of the entries: 591 Entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 240 Inheritance
- b: 199 *Huccet*
- c: 87 *İlam*
- d: 35 *Murasala*
- e: 26 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- f: 4 *Waqf*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 3B: Muharram al-Haram 1182/May 1768,

Mehmet Sadık, the judge of Vidin, has died. His position has been given to well-wisher Seyyid Mehmet, as offered in the past, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is one of the honourable and the reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the ruler of the world. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Recep al-Fard of the aforementioned year (11.11.1768) for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 3B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Mehmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Mehmet Sadık, the judge of Vidin, has died. His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and you are from the honourable and reverend judges, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the ruler of the world. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Recep al-Fard of this year 1182/11.11.1768 for the whole customary period, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Abdullah, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 3B: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin, Seyyid Mehmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division of inheritance of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you from the beginning of Recep al-Fard of this year 1182/11.11.1768. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, when it takes place, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Abdullah, Military judge of Rumili.

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 100B: Ramadan al-Mubarak 1183/December 1769,

Seyyid Mehmet, the judge of Vidin, died within the aforesaid year. His position has been given to well-wisher Mevlana Hacı Ömer, as offered in the past, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is from the honourable and the reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid

province], from the beginning of Shawwal Mukarram of the aforementioned year (28.01.1770) for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 100B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Hacı Ömer Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Seyyid Mehmet, the judge of Vidin, died within this year 1183/1769. His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and are from the honourable and the reverend judges, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Shawwal al-Mukarram of the aforesaid year (28.01.1770) for the whole customary period, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Şerifzâde Seyyid Mehmet, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 100B: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and reverend judges, the judge of Vidin, Hacı Ömer Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division of inheritance of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you, from the beginning of Shawwal al-Mukarram of this year 1183/28.01.1770. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Şerifzâde Seyyid Mehmet, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S38

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 1115-1123/1703-1711²⁴⁰

The sheets and the measure: 128 Sheets, 39:14.5 cm

Condition of the register: Repaired

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Hacı Ömer, Qadi, (sheet 3B)
- 2: Mustafa b. Yusuf, (sheet 128 A)
- 3: Hafız Mehmet Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 25B)
- 4: Ahmet b. Ahmet, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 66B)
- 5: Hüseyin, Qadi, (sheet 67 A)
- 6: Hasan, Qadi, (sheet 77B)
- 7: İbrahim Effendi, Naib, (sheet 77B)

Military judge of Rumili:

- 1: Abdullah, (sheet 25B)
- 2: Abdalbaki, (sheet 77B)

Total number of the entries: 562 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 197 *Murasala*
- b: 161 *Huccet*
- c: 124 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- d: 44 Inheritance
- e: 34 *İlam*
- f: 2 *Waqf*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 25B: At the beginning of Rabi al-Akhir 1117/23.07.1705,

As the removal date of [illegible] Ömer is nearing, he will be deposed after five months from the aforementioned month. His position has been given to well-wisher Mevlana Hafız Mehmet, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge. After submission of his petition, he will have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] with

²⁴⁰ The difference of the dates of the entries implies that the different registers were bound together.

the army and legal rights²⁴¹ from the beginning of Shawwal al-Mukarram of the aforementioned year (16.01.1706) until completing the customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 25B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Hafız Mehmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that since the removal date of Ömer, the judge of Vidin, is nearing, he will be deposed from the end of the month Rabi al-Akhir of this year 1117/20.08.1705. His position is offered to you in the registry of the former military judge, and has been given to you as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge. It is required that when the time has come, you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province with the army and [illegible] rights in accordance with the past assignment from the beginning of Shawwal al-Mukarram of the aforementioned year (16.01.1706) until completing the customary period, and enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants.

The poor, Abdullah, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 25B: His Excellency, the judge of Vidin, Hafız Mehmet Effendi, the esteemed,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division of inheritance of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred to you by us from the beginning of Shawwal al-Mukarram of this year 1117/16.01.1706. It is required that you write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, which takes place in the aforesaid province, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a and send us the customary taxes. With cordial greetings. [It was] written in Rabi al-Akhir of the aforesaid year.

The poor, Abdullah, Military judge of Rumili.

²⁴¹ This probably refers to both the disposal of [*tasarruf*] the shari'a affairs and of the division of inheritance of the army.

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 77B: At the beginning of Rabi al-Awwal 1122/30.04.1710,

Hüseyin, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of the aforesaid month. His position has been conferred and given to well-wisher Mevlana Hasan, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and has the help of the Sultan. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Rabi al-Akhir of the aforementioned year (30.05.1710), until completing the customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

It reached us on 10 Rabi al-Akhir of the aforesaid year (08.06.1710).

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 77B: His Excellency, the measure of law, the successor judge (*muvaqqat*) of Vidin Mevlana Hasan Effendi, the prosperous,

With the offering of greetings, it is an official memorandum that Hüseyin, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of Safar al-Khayr of this year 1122/29.04.1710. His position has been conferred and given to you, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and have the kind help of the Sultan. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Rabi al-Akhir of the aforesaid year (30.05.1710) until completing the customary period, and enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

[It was] written in the month Rabi al-Ula of the aforesaid year (April 1710). It reached us on 10 Rabi al-Akhir [11]22/08.06.1710.

From the poor, Abdalbaki, Military judge of Rumili.

The original copy was stamped.

In the following document, we see İbrahim Effendi being appointed as a naib by the qadi Hasan. The petition below suggests that the naib served for approximately one year, from 30.05.1710 until the removal of the qadi on 19.05.1711:

Sheet 77B: His Excellency, the virtuousness, the naib of the shari'a, Mevlana İbrahim Effendi, the prosperous,

After pure greetings, it is an official memorandum that the deputyship of the affairs of the province of Vidin, whose obligatory *sadaka* was granted to this humble servant, has been transferred and handed over to you by us to take over from the beginning of the month Rabi al-Ukhra of this year 1122/30.05.1710. A correspondence has been written and sent. When it reached, it is required that you, as deputy judge [authorised] by us, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and do your best to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. You should act in accordance with the requirement of this correspondence.

[This was] written at the beginning of the aforesaid month of the aforementioned year (30.05.1710).

The poor, Hasan, judge in the city Vidin.

It was submitted to us on the 10th of the month Rabi al-Akhir of the aforesaid year (08.06.1710).²⁴²

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 105B: At the beginning of Rabi al-Akhir of this year 1123/19.05.1711,

Hasan, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of the next month. His position, by the way of transfer, is offered to well-wisher Mevlana Hüseyin who is the judge (*mutasarrıf*) of Tamişvar, as he is from the honourable [judges]. After submission of his petition showing that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Rabi al-Akhir (19.05.1711) for only eight months, and completes the customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

²⁴² This date shows that the correspondence reached later than the date in which the naib was supposed to assume the post. It is likely that the naib was informed of the appointment by other ways and once he received the information, he started to do his job.

Library register number: S39

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 1182/1768

The sheets and the measure: 70 Sheets, 42:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Repaired, (one thirds of the sheets are not written)

The qadis and/or naibs: Seyyid Musa Effendi, (sheet 3B)

Total number of the entries: 266 Entries, (91 entires can be fully read. It is very difficult to read the others.)

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 136 *Hucet*

b: 66 *Inheritance*

c: 42 *Ilam*

d: 12 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

e: 10 *Murasala*

Library register number: S40

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 1150-Rabi al-Ula 1152/1737-June 1739

The sheets and the measure: 68 Sheets, 44.5:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Repaired

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Halil, Qadi, (sheet 2B)

2: İbrahim Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 61A)

Military judge of Rumili: Muhammed Pirizâde, (sheet 2B)

Total number of the entries: 265 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 165 Inheritance

b: 39 *Huccet*

c: 35 *Murasala*

d: 23 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

e: 3 *İlam*

Buyruldu of the military judge about the appointment of another qadi when the serving qadi was transferred to another province:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana İbrahim Effendi, the prosperous,

With the offering of appropriate greetings, it is an official memorandum that Halil, the judge of Vidin, following the high commandment which has just been issued, will be transferred to another province, after one month from the end of Recep al-Fard of this year 1150/23.11.1737. His position has been given to you, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and have the kind help of the Sultan. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs] of the aforesaid province from he beginning of the month of Ramadan al-Mubarak of the aforementioned year (23.12.1737) for the whole customary period, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants . With cordial greetings.

The poor, Muhammed Pirizâde, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin, İbrahim Effendi, the prosperous,

After greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred to you from the beginning of the month Ramadan al-Mubarak of this year 1150/23.12.1737. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers in the aforesaid province, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Muhammed Pirizâde, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S41

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Jumad al-Akhira 1165-Muharram 1167/April 1752-October 1753

The sheets and the measure: 120 Sheets, 41:14.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good, (some entries were crossed out by the judge)

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Muhammed b. Mehmet, qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 2B)

2: Feyzullah, Qadi, (sheet 2B)

Military judge of Rumili: Dürri zâde Mustafa, (sheet 2B)

Total number of entries: 416 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 178 *Huccet*

b: 100 *Inheritance*

c: 44 *Murasala*

d: 39 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

e: 28 *Ma'ruz*

f: 25 *İlam*

g: 2 *Waqf*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 2B: Jumad al-Akhira 1165/April 1752,

Feyzullah, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed after one month from the end of the next month. His position has been given to well-wisher Mevlana Muhammed, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is from the honourable and the reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Ruler of the world. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Ramadan al-Mubarak of the aforesaid year (13.07.1752) for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Muhammed Effendi, the prosperous,

With many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Feyzullah, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of Sha'ban al-Mu'azzam of this year 1165 (12.07.1752). His position has been given to you, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and are from the honourable and reverend judges, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Ruler of the world. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Ramadan al-Mubarak of the aforementioned year (13.07.1752) for the whole customary period, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants . With cordial greetings.

The poor, Dürriüzâde Mustafa, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin, Muhammed Effendi, the prosperous,

With many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred to you from the beginning of the month Ramadan al-Mubarak of this year 1165/13.07.1752. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers in the aforesaid province, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the share which Allah, the most exalted, prescribed. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Dürriüzâde Mustafa, Military judge of Rumili.



Library register number: S42

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Dulqa'da 1144-Dhulhijja 1145/April 1732-May 1733

The sheets and the measure: 60 Sheets, 42.5:15 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Hafız Süleyman, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 34A)

2: Mehmet, Qadi, (sheet 2B)

Military judge of Rumili: Seyyid Mehmet Zeynelabidin, (sheet 3A)

Total number of the entries: 227 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 80 *Huccet*

b: 78 Inheritance

c: 29 *Murasala*

d: 24 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

e: 10 *Ma'ruz*

f: 6 *İlam*

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 3A: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana, the judge of Vidin, Süleyman Effendi, the prosperous,

After brilliant greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you, from the beginning of Dhulqa'da Sharifa of this year 1144/26.04.1732. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers in the aforesaid province, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Zeynelabidin, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S43

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 1135/1723

The sheets and the measure: 37 Sheets, 43:16 cm

Condition of the register: Some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Ramazan zâde Abdurrahim Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 2B)

2: Abdalbaki, Naib, (sheet 12B)

Total number of entries: 130 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 46 *Huccet*

b: 38 Inheritance

c: 26 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

d: 8 *Murasala*

e: 7 *İlam*

f: 4 *Ma'ruz*

g: 1 *Waqf*

Library register number: S44

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Jumad al-Awwal 1170-Recep 1171/January 1757-March 1758

The sheets and the measure: 33 Sheets, 41:15 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Hafız Ahmet, Qadi, (sheet 2B)

2: İbrahim Nazır, Qadi (sheet 2B)

Military judge of Rumili: Ahmet, (sheet 2B)

Total number of entries: 124 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 54 Inheritance

b: 44 *Huccet*

c: 13 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

d: 7 *Murasala*

e: 4 *İlam*

f: 2 *Waqf*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 2B: Jumad al-Ula 1170/January 1757,

İbrahim Nazır, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed after two months from the end of the next month. His position has been given to well-wisher Mevlana Hafız Ahmet, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is from the honourable judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan. After submission of his petition he will have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Ramadan al-Mubarak of the aforesaid year (20.05.1757), for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure law, Hafız Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that İbrahim Nazır, the judge (*mutasarrıf*) of Vidin, will be deposed after two months from

the end of Jumad al-Akhira of this year 1170/21.03.1757. His position has been given to you as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and are from the honourable judges, and have the kind help of the Sultan. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Ramadan al-Mubarak of the aforementioned year (20.05.1757) for the whole customary period, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants . With cordial greetings.

The poor, Ahmet, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin, Mevlana Hafiz Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you by us, from the beginning of the month Ramadan al-Mubarak of this year 1170/20.05.1757. It is required that you pay attention and make an effort to write down and to mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers in the aforesaid province, and to divide and to distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Ahmet, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S46

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 1187-1188/1773-1774

The sheets and the measure: 96 Sheets, 42.5:15 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Ömer Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 1A)

2: Ahmet, Qadi, (sheet 2B)

Military judge of Rumili:

1: Salih Effendi zâde Mehmet Emin, (sheet 1A)

2: Damad zâde Mehmet Murat, (sheet 2B)

Total number of entries: 293 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 87 *Huccet*

b: 78 Inheritance

c: 58 *İlam*

d: 30 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

e: 29 *Murasala*

f: 11 *Ma'ruz*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 2B: Sha'ban al-Mu'azzam, for the year 1188/October 1774,

Ahmet, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of the next month. His position has been given, as offered in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Ömer, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and has the kind help of the Sultan, and he is from the honourable and the reverend judges. After submission of his petition, he will have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Shawwal al-Mukarram of the aforesaid year (05.12.1774) for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Ömer Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Ahmet, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of Ramadan al-Mubarak of

this year 1188/04.12.1774. His position has been given to you as offered in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and are from the honourable and the revered judges, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Shawwal al-Mukarram of the aforementioned year (05.12.1774) for the whole customary period, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Damadzâde Mehmet Murat, Military judge of Rumili.

Ömer Effendi was entitled to the division of inheritance by the different military judges:

1: Sheet 1A: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable judges, presently the judge of Vidin, Mevlana Ömer Effendi, the prosperous,

With appropriate greetings and brilliant salutations, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you by us, from the second day of the month Shawwal al-Mukarram of this year 1188/06.12.1774. It is required that you pay full attention to writing down and to marking the inheritance of the deceased soldiers in the aforesaid province, and to divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

From the poor, Salih Effendizâde Mehmet Emin, Military judge of Rumili.

2: Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin, Mevlana Ömer Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us from the beginning of Shawwal al-Mukarram of this year 1188/05.12.1774. It is required that you go to the aforesaid province and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Damadzâde Mehmet Murat, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S47

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Recep 1223-25 ج (Rabi al-Akhir) 1225/August 1808-30.05.1810

The sheets and the measure: 83 Sheets, 40:14.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Halil Effendi, Naib, (sheet 1A)
- 2: İbrahim, Qadi, (sheet 23A)
- 3: Hasmi zâde Seyyid Mehmet Emin, Qadi, (sheet 29A)

Total number of the entries: 243 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 168 Inheritance
- b: 44 *Huccet*
- c: 10 *Waqf*
- d: 7 *Murasala*
- e: 6 *İlam*
- f: 6 *Ma'ruz*
- g: 2 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

Halil Effendi was appointed as a naib by the qadi İbrahim for a period of approximately six months between 16.04.1809-10.10.1809:

Sheet 23A: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Halil Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the deputyship of the shari'a affairs of the province of Vidin, which had been at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, has been transferred to you from the beginning of Rabi al-Ula of this year 1224/16.04.1809. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the share which Allah, the most Wise, prescribed in his honourable book [Qur'an]. You should not permit

to deviate from the shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings.

The poor, İbrahim, judge in the province Vidin.

The aforesaid Halil Effendi was appointed as a naib by another qadi:

Sheet 29A: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Halil Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs the province of Vidin, which have been at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us from the beginning of Ramadan al-Mubarak of this year 1224/10.10.1809. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Hasmizâde Seyyid Mehmet Emin,
judge in the province Vidin.

Library register number: S48

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 3 Jumad al-Akhira 1194-25 Recep 1195/06.06.1780-17.07.1781

The sheets and the measure: 59 Sheets, 44.5:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: Seyyid Abdulwahhab, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 59A)

Total number of entries: 163 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 61 *Hucet*
- b: 50 Inheritance
- c: 28 *İlam*
- d: 12 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- e: 9 *Murasala*
- f: 2 *Waqf*
- g: 1 *Ma'ruz*

Library register number: S49

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Recep 1195-Dhulqa'da 1196/June 1781-October 1782

The sheets and the measure: 81 Sheets, 42.5:16 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Hacı Ebu Bekir Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 2B)

2: Seyyid Abdulwahhab, Qadi, (sheet 2B)

Military judge of Rumili: Mehmet Arif, (sheet 2B)

Total number of the entries: 218 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 94 Inheritance

b: 51 *Huccet*

c: 28 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

d: 26 *Murasala*

e: 15 *İlam*

f: 4 *Ma'ruz*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 2B: Recep 1195/June 1781,

Seyyid Abdulwahhab, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of the aforementioned month. His position has been given, as offered in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Hacı Ebu Bekir, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is from the honourable and the reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the revered Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Sha'ban al-Mu'azzam of the aforesaid year (23.07.1781), for only sixteen months, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and the reverend judges Hacı Ebu Bekir Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Seyyid Abdulwahhab, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of Recep

al-Fard of this year 1195/22.07.1781. His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the revered Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Sha'ban al-Mu'azzam (23.07.1781) for only sixteen months, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

[The name of the issuer of this document was not recorded. However, it is likely that it was Mehmet Arif as we see his name in the document below.]

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and the reverend judges, the judge of Vidin, Hacı Ebu Bekir Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you from the beginning of Sha'ban al-Mu'azzam of this year 1195/23.07.1781. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers in the aforesaid province, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Arif, the pride of the medical doctors,²⁴³

Military judge of Rumili.

²⁴³ This suggests that the military judge was a medical doctor. It is likely that he had religious and medical education.

Library register number: S50

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 23 Jumad al-Akhira 1235-20 Recep 1238/07.04.1820-02.04.1823

The sheets and the measure: 101 Sheets,²⁴⁴ 47:16.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: İshak zâde Esad, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 35B)
- 2: Seyyid Mehmet Tevfik, Qadi, (sheet 48B)
- 3: Hafız Süleyman Effendi, Naib, (sheet 48B)
- 4: İskender Effendi, Naib, (sheet 172)

Total number of the entries: 312 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 256 Inheritance
- b: 18 *Huccet*
- c: 15 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- d: 9 *Murasala*
- e: 7 *İlam*
- f: 5 *Waqf*
- g: 2 *Ma'ruz*

Hafız Süleyman Effendi was appointed as a naib by the qadi Seyyid Mehmet Tevfik for a period of approximately twelve months between 28.09.1821-18.09.1822:

Sheet 48B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana, the virtuous Hafız Süleyman Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Vidin, which had been at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us as our deputy, to take over from the beginning of Muharram al-Haram of this year 1237/28.09.1821. It is required that in the aforesaid province, you execute the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants ,

²⁴⁴ A note was attached to the sheet 22-23 signed by Şeref Rüşdü, Qadi/Naib.

and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Tevfik, judge in the province of Vidin.

Appointment of another naib by the aforesaid qadi:

Sheet 86B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana İskender Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Vidin, which had been at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us as our deputy, from the 24rd day of Muharram al-Haram of this year 1238/18.09.1822. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned month, and have good relations [with the residents] and pay attention to enforcing [the judgments of] the honourable shari'a, and write down promptly the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and avoid demanding anything [money] for the huccets of maintenance and testament. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Tevfik, judge in the province of Vidin.

Library register number: S52

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 22 Sha'ban 1173-10 Dhulhijja 1175/09.04.1760-02.07.1762

The sheets and the measure: 137 Sheets, 42:15 cm

Condition of the register: This needs to be repaired, (some entries are illegible)

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Hacı Osman, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 63A)

2: Hacı Süleyman, Qadi, (sheet 68B)

3: Hacı Ebu Bekir, Naib, (sheet 68B)

Military judge of Rumili: Osman, (sheet 68B)

Total number of the entries: 389 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 227 Inheritance

b: 63 *Hucet*

c: 36 *İlam*

d: 34 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

e: 17 *Murasala*

f: 10 *Ma'ruz*

g: 2 *Waqf*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 68B: Dhulqa'da 1174/June 1761,

Hacı Osman, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed after one month from the end of the next month. His position has been given, as offered in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Hacı Süleyman, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is from the honourable and reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Safar al-Khayr of next year (01.09.1761), for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 68B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Hacı Süleyman

Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Hacı Osman, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed after one month from the end of Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1174/02.08.1761. His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and from the honourable and reverend judges, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Safar al-Khayr of next year (01.09.1761) for the whole customary period, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Osman, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 68B: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin, Hacı Süleyman Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you by us, from the beginning of Safar al-Khayr of this year 1175/01.09.1761. It is required that from the aforesaid date, you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers in the aforesaid province, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Osman, Military judge of Rumili.

Appointment of a naib by the qadi:

Sheet 68B: His Excellency, the measure of law, the pride of judges, the virtuous, Hacı Ebu Bekir Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the deputyship of the affairs of the province of Vidin, which was granted and graced to this poor person by the Sublime Sultanate in accordance with [the procedure of] appointment, has been transferred and handed over to you from the beginning of Safar al-Khayr of this year 1175/01.09.1761. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning

of the aforementioned [month], and enforce the judgments of the sound shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a Muhammediyye. With cordial greetings.

From the sincere friends, Süleyman, judge in the province of Vidin.

Library register number: S53

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 25 Rabi al-Akhir 1220-15 Recep 1223/23.05.1805-06.09.1808

The sheets and the measure: 125 Sheets, 42:15 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: İsmail Asım Effendi, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 53A)

Total number of the entries: 299 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 233 Inheritance
- b: 31 *Huccet*
- c: 13 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- d: 9 *Waqf*
- e: 6 *İlam*
- f: 5 *Murasala*
- g: 2 *Ma'ruz*

Library register number: S54

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 1152-1153/1739-1740

The sheets and the measure: 49 Sheets, 42:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Repaired, (some entries are illegible)

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: İbrahim, Qadi, (sheet 2B)

2: Hüseyin b. Ali, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 49B)

Military judge of Rumili: Seyyid Mehmet Zeynelabidin el-Hüseyini, (sheet 2B)

Total number of the entries: 186 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 136 Inheritance

b: 27 *Huccet*

c: 12 *Murasala*

d: 7 *Hatt-ı Humayun* (Imperial Edict)

e: 2 *İlam*

f: 2 *Waqf*

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Hüseyin Effendi, the prosperous,

[Illegible], it is an official memorandum that İbrahim, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of Rabi al-Ula of this year 1152/07.07.1739. His position has been given to you, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and are from the honourable and the reverend judges, and have the kind help of the Sultan. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Rabi al-Akhir of the aforementioned year (08.07.1739) for the whole customary period, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants . With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Zeynelabidin el-Hüseyini,
Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin, Hüseyin Effendi, the prosperous,

After greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred to you from the beginning of Rabi al-Akhir of this year 1152/08.07.1739. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers in the aforesaid province, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Zeynelabidin el-Hüseyini,
Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S55

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 1138, 1162/1725, 1748²⁴⁵

The sheets and the measure: 70 Sheets, 41:14.5 cm

Condition of the register: Repaired

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Mustafa, Qadi, (sheet 9B)

2: Abdurrahman Arnavudi, Naib, (stamp on the sheet 26B)

Total number of the entries: 182 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a123 Inheritance

b: 32 *Huccet*

c: 12 *İlam*

d: 10 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

e: 5 *Murasala*

245 The difference of the dates of the entries implies that the different registers were bound together.

Library register number: S56

The law court: Vidin?

Date of the register: 1163, 1182/1749, 1768

The sheets and the measure: 63+22 Sheets, 42.5:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Repaired, (22 sheets were attached to the register in an envelope)

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total number of entries: 111+58²⁴⁶ entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 37+15 Inheritance

b: 27+30 *Huccet*

c: 16+3 *Murasala*

d: 15+5 *İlam*

e: 14+3 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

f: 2+2 *Ma'ruz*

246 The sign (+) shows the content of the register which was attached in an envelope.

Library register number: S59²⁴⁷

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 3 Muharram 1202-20 Jumad al-Akhira 1203/
15.10.1787-18.03.1789

The sheets and the measure: 90 Sheets, 45:16 cm

Condition of the register: Some parts of some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Mehmet Raşit, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 25B)
- 2: Mustafa, Qadi, (sheet 26A)
- 3: Ahmet Nuri, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 53B)
- 4: Mufti zâde Seyyid Ahmet Effendi, (sheet 53B)

The clerk of the court: Mufti zâde Seyyid Ahmet Effendi (sheet 41A)²⁴⁸

Military judge of Rumili: Seyyid Mehmet Derviş, (sheet 43A)

Total number of entries: 255 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 154 Inheritance
- b: 35 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- c: 31 *Murasala*
- d: 19 *Huccet*
- e: 14 *İlam*
- f: 2 *Ma'ruz*

Ahmet Nuri Effendi was appointed as a naib by the qadi Mustafa for a period of approximately eight months between 09.03.1788-01.11.1788:

Sheet 26A: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Ahmet Nuri Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Vidin, which had been at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us, from the beginning of the month Jumad al-Akhira

²⁴⁷ S58 and S59 are the property registers.

²⁴⁸ It is to be noted that the clerk and the naib of the court were probably brothers as both were called Muftizâde. While the clerk was named Muftizâde Seyyid Hasan Effendi, the naib was called Muftizâde Seyyid Ahmet Effendi.

of this year 1202/09.03.1788. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the most glorified shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor Mustafa, presently judge in the province Vidin.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance of a special person by the military judge:

Sheet 43A: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin, Naib Ahmet Nuri Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the writing of the inheritance of Bazubend oğlu Ömer Aga who has died in the aforesaid province has been transferred and handed over to your majesty. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of the aforesaid deceased [Ömer ağa] and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Derviş, Military judge of Rumili.

Appointment of another naib by the aforesaid qadi Mustafa:

Sheet 53B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana from the honourable professors Muftizâde Seyyid Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Vidin, which had been at my disposal in accordance with an appointment have been transferred and handed over to your majesty, from the beginning of Safar al-Khayr of this year 1203/01.11.1788. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and write down and mark the division of inheritance of the army, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from enforcing the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mustafa, judge in the province of Vidin.

Library register number: S60

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 1124, 1135/1712, 1723²⁴⁹

The sheets and the measure: 33 Sheets, 43.5:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Repaired,

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Ali, Qadi, (sheet 2B)

2: Hasan b. Mehmet, Qadi, (sheet 19A)

Total number of entries: 238 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 139 *Huccet*

b: 40 *Waqf*

c: 20 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

d: 14 *Murasala*

e: 13 *Inheritance*

f: 12 *İlam*

249 The difference of the dates of the entries implies that the different registers were bound together.

Library register number: S61

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Shawwal 1176-1178/April 1763-1765

The sheets and the measure: 146 Sheets, 43:16 cm

Condition of the register: Repaired, (some parts of some entries are illegible)

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Hacı Süleyman, Qadi, (sheet 1B)

2: Esad zâde Seyyid Sheikh Mehmet Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 118B)

Military judge of Rumili: Kâtip zâde Mehmet, (sheet 1B)

Total number of the entries: 478 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 182 *Hucet*

b: 112 *Inheritance*

c: 80 *İlam*

d: 39 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

e: 39 *Murasala*

f: 23 *Ma'ruz*

g: 3 *Waqf*

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 1B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Esadzâde Seyyid Sheikh Mehmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Hacı Süleyman, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of the month Ramadan al-Mubarak of this year 1176/14.04.1763. His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and you are from the honourable and reverend judges, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Shawwal al-Mukarram of the aforementioned year (15.04.1763) for only eighteen months, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Kâtipzâde Mehmet [illegible], Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 1B: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin, Esadzâde Mehmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you from the beginning of Shawwal al-Mukarram of this year 1176/15.04.1763. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Kâtipzâde Mehmet, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S62

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Sha‘ban 1171-29 Rabi al-Akhir 1173/April 1758-20.12.1759

The sheets and the measure: 86 Sheets, 44:16 cm

Condition of the register: Repaired,

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Hafiz Ahmet Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 2B)
- 2: Mahmut Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 78A)

Military judge of Rumili: Veliyüddin, (sheet 2B)

Total number of entries: 303 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 109 *Huccet*
- b: 102 Inheritance
- c: 34 *Murasala*
- d: 29 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- e: 22 *İlam*
- f: 7 *Ma‘ruz*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 2B: In Sha‘ban al-Mu‘azzam, for the year 1171/April 1758,

Hafiz Ahmet, the judge of Vidin, has died. His position has been given to well-wisher Mevlana Mahmut from the end of the next month, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and as he is from the honourable and the reverend judges, and as he has the kind help of Sultan. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari‘a affairs of the aforesaid province], from the beginning of Shawwal al-Mukarram of the aforementioned year (08.06.1758), for the whole customary period, as conferred in the past, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Mahmut Effendi, the prosperous,

With appropriate greetings, it is an official memorandum that Hafiz Ahmet Effendi, the judge of Vidin, has died. His position has been given

to you from the end of Ramadan al-Mubarak of this year 1171/07.06.1758, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and are from the honourable and reverend judges, and have the kind help of the Sultan. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Shawwal al-Mukarram of the aforementioned year (08.06.1758) for the whole customary period, as conferred in the past, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants . With cordial greetings.

The poor, Veliyüddin, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin, Mevlana Mahmut Effendi, the prosperous,

With appropriate greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred to you by us, from the beginning of Shawwal al-Mukarram of this year 1171/08.06.1758. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Veliyüddin, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S63

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 1176, 1187/1762, 1773²⁵⁰

The sheets and the measure: 133 Sheets, 41:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Hacı Süleyman, Qadi, (sheet 28B)
- 2: Hacı Mehmet Sadık, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 72A)
- 3: Hacı Ebu Bekir, Naib, (stamp on the sheet 63A)

Total number of the entries: 347 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 179 Inheritance
- b: 78 *Huccet*
- c: 50 *İlam*
- d: 23 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- e: 10 *Murasala*
- f: 5 *Waqf*
- g: 2 *Ma'ruz*

Appointment of a naib by the qadi:

Sheet 28B: His Excellency, the measure of law, the pride of judges, Mevlana Hacı Mehmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the protected province of Vidin, which had been at my disposal in accordance with an appointment have been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us from the beginning of the month Rabi al-Ula of this year 1176/20.09.1762. It is required that Allah, may his name be exalted, willing, you go to the aforesaid province, and assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid [province] from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants. Since the division [of inheritance of the army] of the aforesaid province has been transferred [to you] by us, you should write down the inheritance of diseased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the

²⁵⁰ The difference of the dates of the entries suggests that different registers were bound together.

inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the sound shari'a. With cordial greetings.

From the poor, Hacı Süleyman, Judge in the province of Vidin.

Library register number: S64

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Jumad al-Ula 1167-2 Rabi al-Ula 1168/February 1754-17.12.1754

The sheets and the measure: 102 Sheets, 44:16 cm

Condition of the register: Good, (a copy of a huccet, which had been handed out to one side of the case, was attached to the sheet 62-63)

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Muhammed, Qadi, (sheet 2B)
- 2: Derviş Abdulkadir Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 59B)
- 3: İbrahim Nazir, (stamp on the sheet 60A)

Military judge of Rumili: Mehmet Said, (sheet 2B)

Total number of the entries: 293 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 105 Inheritance

b: 96 *Huccet*

c: 34 *Murasala*

d: 31 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

e: 24 *İlam*

f: 3 *Waqf*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 2B: Muharram al-Haram 1167/October 1753,

Muhammed, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed after two months from the end of the next month. His position has been given to well-wisher Mevlana Derviş Abdulkadir, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and he is from the honourable and reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Ruler of the world. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Jumad al-Ula of the aforementioned year (24.02.1754), for the whole customary period, as conferred in the past, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Derviş Abdulkadir Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Muhammed the judge of Vidin will be deposed after two months from the end of Safar al-Khayr of this year 1167 (26.12.1753). His position has been given to you, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and are from the honourable and reverend judges, and have the kind help of Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Ruler of the world. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Jumad al-Ula of the aforementioned year (24.02.1754) for the whole customary period, as conferred in the past, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Said, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin, Mevlana Derviş Abdulkadir Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the examination of the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province has been transferred and handed over to you by us, from the beginning of the month Jumad al-Ula of this year 1167/24.02.1754. It is required that from the aforementioned date, you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, which takes place in the aforesaid province, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Said, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S65

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Dhulhijja 1196-15 Rabi al-Awwal 1198/November 1782-07.02.1784

The sheets and the measure: 105 Sheets, 43:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Hacı Ebu Bekir, Qadi, (sheet 2B)

2: Hacı Hafız Ahmet Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 2B)

Military judge of Rumili: Dürri zâde Seyyid Mehmet Ataullah, (sheet 2B)

Total number of the entries: 328 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 139 Inheritance

b: 78 *Huccet*

c: 46 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

d: 35 *İlam*

e: 25 *Murasala*

f: 5 *Ma'ruz*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 2B: At the beginning of Ramadan al-Mubarak for the year 1196/10.08.1782,

Hacı Ebu Bekir, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed after one month from the end of the next month. His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Hacı Hafız Ahmet, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is from the honourable and gracious judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of the aforementioned year (07.11.1782) for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Hacı Hafız Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Hacı Ebu Bekir, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed after one month from the end of Shawwal al-Mukarram of this year 1196/07.10.1782. His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and are from the honourable and the reverend judges, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of the aforementioned year (07.11.1782) for the whole customary period, and enforce [the judgments of] the shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Dürriẓâde Seyyid Mehmet Ataullah,
Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin, from the honourable judges, Mevlana Hacı Hafız Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred to you by us from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1196/07.11.1782. It is required that from the aforementioned date you write down and mark the inheritance of deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute them among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Dürriẓâde Seyyid Mehmet Ataullah,
Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S66

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Muharram 1230-24 Jumad al-Akhira 1231/December 1814-22.05.1816

The sheets and the measure: 65 Sheets, 43:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Abdullah, Qadi, (sheet 1B)
- 2: Abdulmuiyn Effendi, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 18B)
- 3: Seyyid Mehmet Emin, Qadi, (sheet 28B)
- 4: Mehmet Nazif Effendi, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 31A)
- 5: Ahmet Nazif Effendi, Naib, (sheet 47B)

Military judge of Rumili: Kethudazâde Mehmet Sadık, (sheet 47B)

Total number of the entries: 212 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 142 Inheritance
- b: 22 *Murasala*
- c: 20 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- d: 19 *Hucet*
- e: 4 *Ma'ruz*
- f: 3 *Waqf*
- g: 2 *İlam*

Appointment of a naib called Abdulmuiyn Effendi by the qadi Abdullah for a period of approximately one year between 14.12.1814-03.12.1815:

Sheet 1B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Abdulmuiyn Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs and [the affairs of] the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Vidin, which had been at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us from the beginning of the month of Muharram al-Haram of this year 1230/14.12.1814. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned

[month], and make an effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of diseased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Abdullah, judge (*mutasarrıf*) in the province of Vidin.

Appointment of a naib called Ahmet Nazif Effendi by the qadi Seyyid Mehmet Emin:

Sheet 28B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana from the honourable judges Ahmet Nazif Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs and [the affairs of] the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Vidin, which had been at my disposal in accordance with an appointment have been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us, from the beginning of the month Muharram al-Haram of this year 1231/03.12.1815. It is required that you, as deputy judge, have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and make an effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of the diseased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Emin,
judge (*mutasarrıf*) in the province of Vidin.

In the following document, we see the extension of the service period of the naib of a qadi by the military judge on the ground of the qadi's death:

Sheet 47B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Ahmet Nazif Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that since the judge of Vidin has now died, the shari'a affairs [of Vidin] have been transferred

to your majesty by us from the beginning of the month Rabi al-Akhir until the end of Jumad al-Akhira of this year 1231/01.03.1816-27.05.1816. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province for the aforementioned three months, and enforce and execute the judgments of shari'a among the inhabitants, and make a good effort, and do your best to obey the high commandments. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Kethudazâde Mehmet Sadık, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S67

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Ramadan 1130-1131/July 1718-1719

The sheets and the measure: 85 Sheets, 38:14 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Ali b. Musa, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 3B, 85B)

2: Abdurrahman b. Ahmet Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 11 A)

Total number of the entries: 357 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 158 *Hucet*

b: 59 *Inheritance*

c: 56 *Murasala*

d: 38 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

e: 32 *İlam*

f: 8 *Waqf*

g: 6 *Ma'ruz*

Library register number: S68

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Dhulhijja 1204-Recep 1206/August 1790-February 1792

The sheets and the measure: 129 Sheets, 41.5:16 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Süleyman, Qadi, (sheet 2B)

2: Seyyid Mehmet Nureddin Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 124B)

Military judge of Rumili: İbrahim effendi zâde Mustafa, (sheet 2B)

Total number of the entries: 440 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 149 Inheritance

b: 113 *Huccet*

c: 103 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

d: 43 *Murasala*

e: 24 *İlam*

f: 8 *Ma'ruz*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 2B: In Shawwal al-Mukarram, for the year 1204/June 1790,

Süleyman, the judge (*mutasarrıf*) of Vidin, has died. His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Seyyid Mehmet Nureddin from the end of the next month, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is from the honourable and the reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of the aforementioned year (12.08.1790) for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and the reverend judges, Seyyid Mehmet Nureddin Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Süleyman, the judge (*mutasarrıf*) of Vidin, has died. His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past, from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1204/12.08.1790, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of the aforementioned year (12.08.1790) for the whole customary period, and enforce [the judgments of] the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

The poor, İbrahim Effendizâde Mustafa, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and the reverend judges, Mevlana Seyyid Mehmet Nureddin Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province Vidin, which had been at our disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to you from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1204/12.08.1790. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should do your best and pay utmost attention to the widows and the orphans. With cordial greetings.

The poor, İbrahim Effendizâde Mustafa, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S69

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 1 Muharram 1210-7 Jumad al-Ula 1210/18.07.1795-19.12.1795

The sheets and the measure: 90 Sheets, 45:16 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Şuarânizâde Hafız Seyyid İsmail, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 26A)

2: Küçük qadizâde Arif al-Istanboli, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 57A)

3: Mustafa, Qadi, (sheet 78B)

Total number of the entries: 339 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 169 Inheritance

b: 96 *Huccet*

c: 30 *İlam*

d: 20 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

e: 20 *Murasala*

f: 3 *Ma'ruz*

g: 1 *Waqf*

Appointment of a naib by the qadi:

Sheet 78B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Şuarânizâde Hafız Seyyid İsmail Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Vidin, which had been at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty from the beginning of Muharram al-Haram of this year 1210/18.07.1795. It is required that you go [to the aforesaid province] and take over [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a, and write down and mark the inheritance of the diseased soldiers and non-soldiers [civil people], and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mustafa, presently judge in the protected province of Vidin.

Library register number: S70

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 1 Rabi al-Akhira 1200-3 Dhulqa'da 1201/01.02.1786-17.8.1787

The sheets and the measure: 90 Sheets, 44.5:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Yahya zâde Hacı Seyyid Mehmet, Qadi, (sheet 2B)

2: Kerim zâde Hacı Abdulgani, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 90A)

Military judge of Rumili: Mehmet Sadık, (sheet 2B)

Total number of entries: 281 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 128 Inheritance

b: 84 *Huccet*

c: 26 *İlam*

d: 20 *Murasala*

e: 15 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

f: 6 *Ma'ruz*

g: 2 *Waqf*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 2B/2: In Safar al-Khayr, for the year 1200/December 1785,

Yahya zâde Hacı Seyyid Mehmet, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of the next month. His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Abdulgani, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is from the honourable and the reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Rabi al-Akhir of the aforementioned year 01.02.1786, for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 2B/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable

and the reverend judges, Mevlana Abdulgani Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Yahyazâde Mehmet said, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of Rabi al-Ula of this year 1200/31.01.1786. His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Rabi al-Ukhra of the aforementioned year (01.02.1786) for the whole customary period, and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants . With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Sadık, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 2B/4: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and the reverend judges, the judge of Vidin, Abdulgani Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province Vidin, have been transferred and handed over to you by us from the beginning of Rabi al-Ukhra of this year 1200/01.02.1786. It is required that you pay attention to write down and mark the inheritance of deceased soldiers, and to divide and distribute it between inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Sadık, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S71

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Safar al-Khayr 1187-Muharram 1188/April 1773-March 1774

The sheets and the measure: 96 Sheets, 41:16.5 cm

Condition of the register: Repaired, (some entries are illegible)

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Ahmet Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 2B)

2: Balizâde Seyyid Feyzullah Effendi, Naib, (sheet 2B)

3: Fethullah Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 4A)

4: Hacı Muhammed Effendi, Naib, (sheet 45B)

Military judge of Rumili: Muhammed Esad, (sheet 6A)

Total number of the entries: 304 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 94 Inheritance

b: 91 *Huccet*

c: 56 *İlam*

d: 34 *Murasala*

e: 17 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

f: 10 *Ma'ruz*

g: 2 *Waqf*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 4A/2: In Dhulqa'da Sharifa, for the year 1186/February 1773,

Fethullah, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed after one month from the end of the next month. His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Ahmet, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is from the honourable and the reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Safar al-Khayr of the next year (24.04.1773), for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 6A/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, the pride of the honourables, Mevlana Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Fethullah, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed after one month from the end of Dhulqa'da Sharifa of this year 1186/22.02.1773. His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Safar al-Khayr of the next year (24.04.1773) for the whole customary period, and that enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Muhammed Esad, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 4A/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, the pride of the honourables, the judge of Vidin, Mevlana Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

With many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province, have been transferred and handed over to you, from the beginning of Safar al-Khayr of this year 1187/24.04.1773. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, which takes place, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Muhammed Esad, Military judge of Rumili.

Appointment of a naib by the qadi for a period of approximately five months between 24.04.1773-02.10.1773:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and the reverend judges, the virtuous Balizâde Seyyid Feyzullah Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that we appointed your majesty as a naib to the province of Vidin, which had been at our

disposal in accordance with an appointment from the beginning of Safar al-Khayr of this year 1187/24.04.1773. It is required that you assume and have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants, and do your best about [the execution of] the commendments of the Sultan, and that write down and mark the inheritance of the diseased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the glorified honourable shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The name of the authorising qadi was not recorded. However, it presumably was Ahmet Effendi as he was appointed as a judge and was supposed to assume the judicial authority on 24.04.1773 which was the date of the appointment of the naib. It is likely that once he was appointed as a qadi, he authorised a substitute to do the job beginning from the day in which he was supposed to serve as a qadi. The wording of this correspondence along with the one below is exactly the same, indicating that both were issued by the same person. The document below identifies its issuer as Ahmet, the judge and so the issuer of this correspondence should be Ahmet Effendi.

Appointment of another naib by the aforesaid qadi Ahmet:

Sheet 45B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable judges, the virtuous Hacı Muhammed Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that we have appointed your majesty as a naib to the province of Vidin, which we had at our disposal in accordance with an appointment, from the middle of Recep al-Fard of this year 1187/02.10.1773. It is required that you assume and have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the middle of the aforementioned month, and enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants, and do your best about [the execution of] the commandments of the Sultan, and write down and mark the inheritance of the diseased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should never deviate from the glorified and honourable shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Ahmet, judge in the province of Vidin.

Library register number: S74

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Dhulhijja 1179-21 Muharram 1181/May 1766-19.06.1767

The sheets and the measure: 107 Sheets, 57:21.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Ahmet Effendi, Qadi,(sheet 1B)

2: (Another) Ahmet Effendi, Qadi,(sheet 1B)

Military judge of Rumili: Osman Dürri zâde, (sheet 1B)

Total number of the entries: 638 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 242 *Hucet*

b: 178 *Inheritance*

c: 102 *İlam*

d: 47 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

e: 32 *Murasala*

f: 31 *Ma'ruz*

g: 6 *Waqf*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 1B: In Shawwal al-Mukarram, for the year 1179/March 1766,

Ahmet, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of the next month. His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Ahmet, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is from the honourable and reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of the aforementioned year (11.05.1766) for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 1B/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

With the offering of proper greetings, it is an official memorandum that Ahmet, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of Dhulqa'da Sharifa of this year 1179/10.05.1766. His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and are from the honourable and reverend judges, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of the aforementioned year (11.05.1766) for the whole customary period, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants . With cordial greetings.

The poor, Osman Dürriẓâde, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 1B/4: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin, Mevlana Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

With many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province, have been transferred and handed over to you from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1179/11.05.1766. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Osman Dürriẓâde, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S77

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Jumad al-Ula 1180-Muharram 1181/October 1766-May 1767

The sheets and the measure: 52 Sheets, 38.5:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: This needs to be carefully handled as the sheets are very thin and newly repaired

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total number of the entries: 137 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 60 Inheritance

b: 32 *Huccet*

c: 19 *İlam*

d: 15 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

e: 5 *Murasala*

f: 4 *Ma'ruz*

g: 2 *Waqf*

Library register number: S78²⁵¹

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Rabi al-Ukhra 1178-22 Dhulqa'da 1179/September
1764-02.05.1766

The sheets and the measure: 140 Sheets, 43:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Esadzâde Seyyid Mehmet, Qadi, (sheet 3B)

2: Ahmet Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 56B)

Military judge of Rumili: Mehmet Said Dürri zâde, (sheet 3B)

Total number of the entries: 567 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 168 *Huccet*

b: 168 Inheritance

c: 95 *İlam*

d: 58 *Ma'ruz*

e: 44 *Murasala*

f: 32 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

g: 2 *Waqf*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 3B: In Muharram al-Haram, for the year 1178/July 1764,

Esad zâde Seyyid Mehmet, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed after one month from the end of the next month. His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Ahmet, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is from the honourable and reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Ruler of the World. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Rabi al-Ukhra of the aforementioned year (28.09.1764) for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

²⁵¹ No detail was given in the catalogue.

Sheet 3B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Esadzâde Seyyid Sheikh Mehmet, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed after one month from the end of Safar al-Khayr of this year 1178/28.08.1764. His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and are from the honourable and reverend judges, and have the kind help of the Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Ruler of the World. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Rabi al-Ukhra of the aforementioned year (28.09.1764) for the whole customary period, and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Said Dürriâde, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 3B: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable judges, the judge of Vidin, Mevlana Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you by us from the beginning of Rabi al-Ukhra of this year 1178/28.09.1764. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Said Dürriâde, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S79

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Recep 1203-9 ج (Jumad al-Awwal) 1204/March
1789-25.01.1790

The sheets and the measure: 94 Sheets, 43:15.5 cm

Condition of the register: Some entries are illegible.

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Seyyid Ahmet, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 22B)
- 2: Abdurrahman, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 33A)
- 3: Evliya Mehmet Chalabi Effendi, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 93B)
- 4: Süleyman, Qadi, (sheet 35B)
- 5: Mustafa, Qadi, (sheet 35B)

Total number of the entries: 351 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 202 Inheritance
- b: 72 *Huccet*
- c: 28 *Murasala*
- d: 25 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- e: 16 *İlam*
- f: 8 *Ma'ruz*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 35B: Mustafa, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of the aforementioned month. His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Süleyman, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is from the honourable and the reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Sha'ban al-Mu'azzam of the aforementioned year 27.04.1789 for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Appointment of a naib by the aforementioned qadi Süleyman:

Sheet 35B: His Excellency, the measure of law, the pride of the honourable professors, Mevlana Evliya Mehmet Chalabi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs along with the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Vidin, which had been at our disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to you from the beginning of Sha'ban al-Mu'azzam of this year 1203/27.04.1789. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and write down and mark [the division of] inheritance of the soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not deviate from the execution of the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants . With cordial greetings.

The poor, Süleyman, judge in the province of Vidin.

Library register number: S80

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register:v4 Sha'ban 1171-16 Ramadan 1171/13.04.1758-25.04.1758

The sheets and the measure: 14 Sheets, 41.5:16 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Muhammed, Naib, (sheet 1B)

2: Derviş Ali, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 12B)

Total number of the entries: 28 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 9 *Huccet*

b: 8 Inheritance

c: 6 *İlam*

d: 4 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

e: 1 *Murasala*

Library register number: S81

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: Rabi al-Akhir 1159-29 Jumad al-Ula 1160/April 1746-08.6.1747

The sheets and the measure: 67 Sheets, 41.5:14 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Chalabi zâde Hüseyin, Qadi, (sheet 2A)
- 2: Halil Effendi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 44A)

Military judge of Rumili: Abdurrahman, (sheet 2A)

Total number of entries: 206 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 133 Inheritance
- b: 34 *Huccet*
- c: 16 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- d: 10 *İlam*
- e: 7 *Murasala*
- f: 4 *Ma'ruz*
- g: 2 *Waqf*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 2A: In Muharram al-Haram, for the year 1159/January 1746,

Chalabi zâde Hüseyin, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed after one month from the end of the next month. His position has been given to well-wisher Mevlana Halil, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is from the honourable and reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Rabi al-Ukhra of the aforementioned year (23.04.1746) for the whole customary period, as conferred in the past, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 2A: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Halil Effendi, the prosperous,

After greetings, it is an official memorandum that Chalabizâde Hüseyin,

the judge of Vidin, will be deposed after one month from the end of Safar al-Khayr of this year 1159/23.03.1746. His position has been given to you, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and are from the honourable and reverend judges, and have the kind help of the Sultan. It is required that you have the disposal [of the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Rabi al-Ukhra of the aforementioned year (23.04.1746) for the whole customary period, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants . With cordial greetings.

The poor, Abdurrahman, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 2A: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin, Mevlana Halil Effendi, the prosperous,

After greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province, which had been at our disposal, have been transferred to you by us, from the beginning of Rabi al-Ukhra of this year 1159/23.04.1746. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers in the aforesaid province, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Abdurrahman, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S82

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: v1193-1194/1779-1780

The sheets and the measure: 93 Sheets, 42.5:15 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Mehmet, Qadi, (sheet 1A)

2: Seyyid Abdulwahhab, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 93A)

Military judge of Rumili: Seyyid İbrahim, (sheet 1A)

Total number of the entries: 273 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

a: 75 *Huccet*

b: 70 *Inheritance*

c: 54 *İlam*

d: 36 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

e: 29 *Murasala*

f: 9 *Ma'ruz*

Seyyid Abdulwehhab Effendi was appointed as a naib by the qadi Mehmet for a period of approximately six months between 16.06.1779-10.12.1779. We learn from the documents below that once the Mehmet has completed his service period, his naib Abdulwehhab became the qadi of this judicial district.

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Abdulwehhab Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs along with [the affairs of] the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Vidin, which had been at our disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your virtuous majesty by us from the beginning of Jumad al-Ukhra of this year 1193/16.06.1779. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and enforce the judgments of the prophetic shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of the diseased soldiers, and divide

and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the share which Allah, may his name be exalted, prescribed. You should not permit to deviate from the sound shari'a. With cordial greetings.

At the beginning of Jumad al-Awwal [1]193/17.05.1779,
Mehmet, judge in the province of Vidin.

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 1A: In Shawwal al-Mukarram for the year 1193/October 1779,

Mehmet, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of the next month. His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Seyyid Abdulwehhab, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is from the honourable and reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Abdulwehhab and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of the aforementioned year (10.12.1779) for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 1A: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and reverend judges, Mevlana Seyyid Abdulwehhab Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Mehmet, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of Dhulqa'da of this year 1193/09.12.1779. His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and are from the honourable and reverend judges, and have the kind help of the Sultan, and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of the aforementioned year (10.12.1779) for the whole customary period and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

From the poor, Seyyid Ibrahim, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 1A: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and the reverend judges, the judge of Vidin, Mevlana Seyyid Abdulwahhab Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1193/10.12.1779. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of deceased soldiers in the aforesaid province, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. With cordial greetings.

From the poor, Seyyid İbrahim, Military judge of Rumili.

The following petition and the *buyruldu* are the replicates of the previous ones except that these contain information about the salary of the qadi. Since the previous documents did not say anything about his salary, new documents were issued one month later specifying it.

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 1A: In Dhulqa'da Sharifa, for the year 1193/November 1779,

Mehmet, the judge of Vidin, having disposed of his remaining period of one month will be deposed from the end of the next month. His position has been conferred to well-wisher Mevlana Seyyid Abdulwehhab, with a salary of daily 499 akçes, because it is now 38 real months, since [he left his post] in the province of Akkirman, and is from the honourable and reverend judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 1A: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Seyyid Abdulwehhab Effendi, the prosperous,

After many [greetings], it is an official memorandum that Mehmet, the judge of Vidin, having been disposed of his remaining period of one

month will be deposed from the end of Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1193/08.01.1780. His position has been conferred to you, with a salary of daily 499 akçes, because it is now 38 real months since [you left your post] in the province of Akkirman, and are from the honourable and reverend judges, and have the kind help of the Sultan. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province for the whole customary period, and enforce [the judgments of] the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants . With cordial greetings.

[No name was recorded. However, it presumably was Seyyid İbrahim, as we see this name in the documents above.]

Library register number: S84

The law court: Vidin

Date of the register: 11 Rabi al-Akhir 1241-23 Recep 1243/23.11.1825-09.02.1828

The sheets and the measure: 100 Sheets, 49:16.5 cm

Condition of the register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Seyyid Mehmet, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 4B)
- 2: Kırımı Seyyid Mehmet Arif Effendi, Naib, (sheet 9B)
- 3: Qadi zâde Seyyid Ahmet, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 30A)
- 4: Seyyid Ali Rıza, Qadi, (sheet 34B)
- 5: Veliyüddin b. İbrahim, Qadi, (sheet 51B)

Military judge of Rumili: Seyyid Mehmet Sadık, (sheet 9B)

Total number of the entries: 278 entries

Breakdown of the content of the sicil:

- a: 156 Inheritance
- b: 39 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- c: 36 *Huccet*
- d: 33 *Murasala*
- e: 7 *İlam*
- f: 4 *Ma'ruz*
- g: 3 *Waqf*

Appointment of a naib by the military judge for a period of approximately seven months between 12.12.1825-07.07.1826:

Sheet 9B: His Excellency, the measure of law, the naib of the judge of Vidin, Mevlana Kırımı Seyyid Mehmet Arif Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the administration of the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province has been transferred and handed over to you by us on the basis of our general authority, from the beginning of Jumad al-Ula of this year 1241/12.12.1825. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the aforementioned [month], and write down and

mark [the inheritance of] the diseased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the prophetic shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Sadık, Military judge of Rumili.

Appointment of a naib called Qadizâde Seyyid Ahmet by the qadi Seyyid Ali Rıza for a period of approximately six and a half months between 07.07.1826-29.01.1827:

Sheet 34B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Qadizâde Seyyid Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the deputyship of the shari'a affairs the province of Vidin, which had been at our disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty as a naib from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1241/07.07.1826. With the grace of Allah, may his name be exalted, it is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the prophetic shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of the diseased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings.

The poor Seyyid Ali Rıza,
judge (*mutasarrıf*) in the province of Vidin.

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 51B: In the month Rabi al-Ula, for the year 1242/October 1826, Ali Rıza, the judge (*mutasarrıf*) of Vidin, will be deposed after two months from the end of the next month. His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Veliyüddin b. İbrahim, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge with the rank

of *Ferman-i âli karîb*,²⁵² and is from the honourable judges, and has the kind help of the Sultan and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] with the aforesaid rank from the beginning of Recep al-Fard of the aforementioned year (29.01.1827), for only 12 months and that he completes the rest of the remaining customary period in another province, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 51B: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable judges, Mevlana Veliyüddin Effendi b. İbrahim, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Ali Rıza, the judge (*mutasarrıf*) of Vidin, will be deposed after two months from the end of the month Rabi al-Ukhra of this year 1242/30.11.1826. His position has been given to you as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge with the rank of *Ferman-i âli karîb*, and have the kind help of Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the beginning of Recep al-Fard of the aforementioned year (29.01.1827), for only 12 months, with the aforesaid rank and that you complete your remaining customary period in another province. With cordial greetings.

[The name of the military judge who issued this *buyruldu* was not recorded. However, it presumably was Seyyid Mehmet Sadık, as we see this name in the documents above.]

The extension of the service period of the aforesaid naib Qadizâde Seyyid Ahmet by the newly appointed qadi:

Sheet 51B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Kadızâde Seyyid Ahmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of

²⁵² This probably refers to the province post named *karîb-i ûlâ* which represents the lowest rank. Ortaylı, 'Kadı', *TDVİA*, vol. 24. pp. 69-73.

the judgements of the shari'a of the province of Vidin, which had been at my disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us to take over from the beginning of Recep al-Fard of this year 1242/29.01.1827. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned month, and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the prophetic shari'a among the inhabitants, and pay careful attention to write down and to mark the inheritance of the diseased soldiers, and to divide and to distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the share which Allah, may his name be exalted, Omniscient, prescribed. You should not permit to deviate from the prophetic shari'a. With cordial greetings.

[The judge presumably was Veliyüddin Effendi bin İbrahim as he was appointed as a qadi on this day as indicated by the documents above.]

Library register number: S85

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register:

1: 2 Dhulhijja 1090-6 Recep 1092/04.01.1680-18.07.1681

2: Sha'ban 1022- Dhulqa'da 1022/September 1613-December 1613²⁵³

The sheets and the measure: 119 Sheets, 42:15 cm

Condition of the Register: Repaired, (some entries are illegible)

The qadis and/or naibs: Mustafa b. İbrahim, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 48B)

Total Number of entries: 494 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 225 *Huccet*

b: 114 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

c: 71 *İlam*

d: 53 *Murasala*

e: 19 Inheritance

f: 10 *Waqf*

g: 2 *Ma'ruz*

A list of the Muhzırs:

Sheet 61A: These are the names of the Muhzırs [who are serving] in the honourable law court: Mehmet Shab, the head Muhzır, Emir Musalli, Yusuf bin Abdullah, Ahmad es-Sekran, Ömer es-Sekran, Musalli es-Sekran, Musalli [illegible], Mahmud al-Hayran, Mustafa al-Kasir, Mehmet bin Kıymetçi.

²⁵³ The sheets which were recorded between these dates were attached to the sheets between 61-71.

Library register number: S148

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 29 Rabi al-Awwal 1262-15 ٢ (Ramadan) 1262/
27.03.1846-06.09.1846

The sheets and the measure: 16 Sheets,²⁵⁴ 48:18 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 77 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 44 *Huccet*

b: 20 *İlam*

c: 11 *Murasala*

d: 2 Inheritance

254 A copy handed out to the plaintiff was attached to the register.

Library register number: S149

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: Shawwal 1094-20 Dhulqa'da 1095/September 1683-29.10.1684

The sheets and the measure: 40 Sheets, 41.8:14.8 cm

Condition of the Register: Repaired, (some entries are illegible)

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 204 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 97 *İlam*

b: 95 *Huccet*

c: 4 *Murasala*

d: 4 *Waqf*

e: 2 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

f: 2 *Inheritance*

Library register number: S159

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 28 Recep 1169-2 Rabi al-Awwal 1170/28.04.1756-
25.11.1756

The sheets and the measure: 20 Sheets, 41:15.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 68 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 35 *Murasala*

b: 25 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

c: 7 *Huccet*

d: 1 *Ma'ruz*

Library register number: S159A

The law court: Vidin

Date of the Register: 25 Shawwal 1185-2 Muharram 1187/31.01.1772-
26.03.1773

The sheets and the measure: 93 Sheets, 41:15 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: Hasan, Qadi, (sheet 94B)²⁵⁵

Total Number of entries: 295 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 125 Inheritance

b: 75 *Huccet*

c: 57 *İlam*

d: 17 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

e: 9 *Murasala*

f: 9 *Ma'ruz*

g: 3 *Waqf*

²⁵⁵ Fethullah was identified as qadi in the catalogue, but I was not able to find this name in the register.

Library register number: S160

The law court: Vidin

Date of the Register: Sha'ban 1206-Recep 1207/March 1792-February 1793

The sheets and the measure: 95 Sheets, 41.5:15.6 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Nuredin Effendi, Naib, (sheet 2B)

2: Mehmet Nurullah Effendi, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 21B)

Military judge of Rumili: Abdullah, (sheet 2B)

Total Number of entries: 271 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 79 Inheritance

b: 70 *Huccet*

c: 52 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

d: 34 *Murasala* (Correspondence)

e: 24 *İlam*

f: 11 *Ma'ruz*

g: 1 *Waqf*

Appointment of a naib by the military judge on behalf of a dead person to pay off the debts of the diseased qadi:

Sheet 2B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Nureddin Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Mehmet Effendi, who is the next candidate on the waiting list for the province of Vidin,²⁵⁶ died and he has a lot of debts, and in order to pay off [his debt], the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you as a naib, for six months, from the beginning of Sha'ban al-

²⁵⁶ The original statement is 'Vidin muvakkat-i Mehmet Effendi'. This probably means that he was the next candidate on the waiting list for the appointment and he could have succeeded the previous judge if he had not died. Since it was his service time and he had the debt, the military judge appointed a naib on his behalf and so the naib will send a portion of the income of the court to the heir of the diseased so that they pay off his debts.

Mu'azzam of this year 1206/25.03.1792. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, and write down and mark inheritance of diseased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia, and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Abdullah, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S160A

The law court: Vidin

Date of the Register: Dhulqa'da 1138-17 Muharram 1139/July 1726-14.09.1726

The sheets and the measure: 15 Sheets, 42:14.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs: Sheikh Mehmet Effendi famous as Salih zâde, (sheet 1B)

Total Number of entries: 54 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 20 Inheritance

b: 12 *Waqf*

c: 11 *Huccet*

d: 4 *Murasala*

e: 3 *Ma'ruz*

f: 2 *İlam*

g: 2 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

Library register number: S161

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 14 Sha'ban 1248-23 Muharram 1249/06.01.1833-
12.06.1833

The sheets and the measure: 20 Sheets, 50:17 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 67 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 52 Inheritance

b: 15 *Huccet*

Library register number: S161A

The law court: Vidin

Date of the Register: Jumad al-Akhira 1125-20 Rabi al-Akhir 1130/June
1713-23.03.1718

The sheets and the measure: 80 Sheets, 42:14.8 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Emirzâde Seyyid Ahmet b. Seyyid Mustafa, Qadi, (sheet 4B)
- 2: Mehmet, (signature and stamp on the sheet 33B)

Total Number of entries: 289 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

- a: 90 *Huccet*
- b: 65 *İlam*
- c: 55 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- d: 54 Inheritance
- e: 21 *Murasala*
- f: 4 *Waqf*

Library register number: S162

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: Rabi al-Awwal 1204-17 ج (Shawwal) 1204/November
1789-30.06.1790

The sheets and the measure: 20 Sheets, 45.5:18 cm

Condition of the Register: Some entries are illegible.

The qadis and/or naibs: Mehmet Tahir, Qadi, (sheet 14A)

Total Number of entries: 68 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 33 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

b: 27 *Murasala*

c: 5 *Huccet*

d: 2 *Inheritance*

e: 1 *Ma'ruz*

Library register number: S163

The law court: Vidin

Date of the Register: Safar 1188-28 Jumad al-Ula 1190/April 1774-
15.07.1776

The sheets and the measure: 58 Sheets, 42:16 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Abdurrahman Sa'alzâde, (sheet 1B)

2: Ömer, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 38A)

Total Number of entries: 200 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 59 Inheritance

b: 56 *Huccet*

c: 26 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

d: 23 *Murasala*

e: 20 *İlam*

f: 14 *Ma'ruz*

g: 2 *Waqf*

Library register number: S164

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 23 Recep 1218-15 Rabi al-Awwal 1220/08.11.1803-
13.06.1805

The sheets and the measure: 39 Sheets, 45:19 cm

Condition of the Register: Some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs: Mehmet Said, (stamp on the sheet 39A)

Total Number of entries: 159 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 51 Inheritance

b: 50 *Murasala*

c: 38 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

d: 18 *Hucet*

e: 2 *İlam*

Library register number: S165

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: Dhulqa'da 1211-14 Jumad al-Ula 1212/April 1797-
04.11.1797

The sheets and the measure: 14 Sheets, 49:17 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 55 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 30 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

b: 15 *Murasala*

c: 7 *Huccet*

d: 3 Inheritance

Library register number: S165bis

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 11 Rabi al-Akhir 1211-18 Rabi al-Awwal 1212/
14.10.1796-10.09.1797

The sheets and the measure: 14 Sheets, 49.5:17.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs: Mehmet²⁵⁷

Military judge of Rumili: Veliyüddin Effendizâde Mehmet Emin, (sheet 1B)

Total Number of entries: 64 entries²⁵⁸

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 28 *Murasala*

b: 25 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

c: 9 *Huccet*

d: 2 Inheritance

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 1B/2: To the source of his Excellency, the virtuous, the affectionate Effendi, [the addressee was not recorded],

With the offering of pure greetings and many salutations; our desire/affection is that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Sofya, which was granted and graced to your honourable majesty by his high kindness of the Ruler of the World, and by the brilliant renowned Crown, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us. We affectionately expect that you make a full effort and pay attention and endeavour to mark and to write down the inheritance of the [diseased] soldiers from the beginning of Shawwal al-Mukarram of this year 1211/30.03.1797, and to divide and to distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. May your glorious virtuousness endure.

The poor, Veliyüddin Effendizâde Mehmet Emin,
Military judge of Rumili.

²⁵⁷ He was identified as qadi in the catalogue, but I was not able to find this name in the register.

²⁵⁸ Most of the entries are related to the criminal activities and the punishment of the bandit (*eşkiya*) called Osman, son of Basbun.

Extension of the service time of the qadi on the basis of an *inhâ*:

Sheet 1B/3: To the glorious presence of the judge of Sofya, Effendi, [the addressee was not recorded],

With many greetings, the correspondence that since an *inhâ* has been sent [to us] that you pay attention and are very careful about the administration of the shari'a and you have good and humanly relations with the people/residents, the letter, which contains that two extra months have been added to your service time which is 12 months, has been written and sent [to you]. When it arrives, with the grace of God, you complete your service time honestly and uprightly as in the past. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet Arif Dürriizâde,

11 Rabi al-Awwal 1212/03.09.1797.

Library register number: S166

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 4 Sha'ban 1181-3 Safar 1183/26.12.1767-08.06.1769

The sheets and the measure: 66 Sheets, 42.5:15.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: Mehmet²⁵⁹

Military judge of Rumili:

1: Seyyid Abdullah, (sheet 1A)

2: Seyyid Mehmet Said, (sheet 1A)

Total Number of entries: 108 entries²⁶⁰

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 49 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

b: 40 *Murasala*

c: 11 *Huccet*

d: 7 Inheritance

e: 1 *Ma'ruz*

Entitlement to the division of inheritance for a period of approximately six months between 19.04.1768-08.10.1768:

Sheet 1A/2: To his Excellency, the virtuous, the affectionate, the honourable law court of Effendi [the addressee was not recorded],

The official memorandum is that [since] the duty of enforcing the judgements of the shari'a was entrusted to you by the Exalted State, the Ruler of the World, and by the Sultanate, his Excellency from the beginning of the month Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1181/19.04.1768, the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Sofya have been transferred and handed over to your honesty. It is expected that you make a good effort to mark and write down the inheritance of the diseased soldiers from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and to divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. May your glorious virtuousness endure.

²⁵⁹ He was identified as qadi on the catalogue, but we were not able to find this name in the register.

²⁶⁰ Most of the entries are related to the criminal activities of the bandits.

From the affectionate friends, Seyyid Abdullah,
 Military judge of Rumili.
 Arrived at the beginning of Dhulhijja 1181/19.04.1768.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 1A/3: To the presence of his Excellency, the virtuous Effendi [the addressee was not recorded],

With the offering of brilliant prayers and glorious [greetings], our affection/desire is that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Sofya, which is at your disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred to your majesty, from the 26th day of Jumad al-Ula of this year 1182/08.10.1768. It is expected [and] required that you write down and mark the inheritance of diseased soldiers in the aforesaid province, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. May your glory endure.

From the affectionate friends, Seyyid Mehmet Saidzâde,
 Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S167

The law court: Vidin

Date of the Register: 27 Jumad al-Akhira 1209-13 Dhulqa'da 1213/
19.01.1795-18.04.1799

The sheets and the measure: 80 Sheets, 39.5:14.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Some entries are illegible.

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Kethudazâde Mustafa, Qadi, (sheet 7B)
- 2: Hüseyin, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 10B)
- 3: Dostu zâde Osman Effendi, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 37B)

Total Number of entries: 266 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

- a: 108 *Huccet*
- b: 79 *Inheritance*
- c: 27 *Murasala*
- d: 18 *Ma'ruz*
- e: 17 *İlam*
- f: 16 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- g: 1 *Waqf*

Appointment of a naib by the qadi:

Sheet 7B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Dostuzâde Osman Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that [the shari'a affairs of the province] of Vidin, which had been at our disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty from the beginning of the month of Rajab of this year 1209/22.01.1795. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned month, and write down and mark the inheritance of diseased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. You should not deviate from enforcing [the judgments of] the exalted honourable shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

From the poor, Kethudazâde Mustafa, judge in the province of Vidin.

Library register number: S168

The law court: Vidin

Date of the Register: Jumad al-Awwal 1228-4 Rabi al-Akhir 1229/May
1813-26.03.1814

The sheets and the measure: 48 Sheets, 45:16 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Mustafa, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 1A)
- 2: Mehmet Emin, Qadi, (sheet 7B)
- 3: Yakupzâde Mustafa Tecelli Effendi, Naib, (sheet 16B)
- 4: Muhammed Hamid, Qadi, (sheet 16B)

Total Number of entries: 168 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

- a: 119 Inheritance
- b: 32 *Huccet*
- c: 9 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- d: 7 *Murasala*
- e: 1 *İlam*

Appointment of a naib by the qadi Mehmet Emin for a period of approximately six months between 02.05.1813-26.10.1813:

Sheet 13B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana [no name was recorded] Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the deputyship of the shari'a affairs of the province of Vidin, which was granted and graced to our humble responsibility by his kindness, the Sultan and the brilliant Crown, has been transferred and handed over to your majesty from the beginning of the month Jumad al-Awwal of this year 1228/02.05.1813. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month] and enforce [the judgments of] the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of [diseased] soldiers and of local people, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Emin, illustrious qadi in the city of Vidin.

Appointment of a naib named Yakupzâde Mustafa Tecelli Effendi by the qadi Muhammed Hamid:

Sheet 16B: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Yakupzâde Mustafa Tecelli Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the administration of the shari'a affairs of the province of Vidin, which had been at our disposal in accordance with an appointment, has been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us from the beginning of the month Dhulqa'da Sharifa of this year 1228/26.10.1813. It is required that you assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the division of [inheritance] of the diseased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a Muhammediyye. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Muhammed Hamid, judge in the city of Vidin.

Library register number: S169

The law court: Vidin

Date of the Register: 1191-1192/1777-1778

The sheets and the measure: 41 Sheets, 48:16.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs: Hasan, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 15A)

Total Number of entries: 175 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 61 Inheritance

b: 58 *Huccet*

c: 22 *İlam*

d: 14 *Murasala*

e: 10 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

f: 9 *Ma'ruz*

g: 1 *Waqf*

Library register number: S173

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 11 Sha'ban 1192-11 Muharram 1193/04.09.1778-
29.01.1779

The sheets and the measure: 20 Sheets, 42:19 cm

Condition of the Register: Some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs: Hacı Mustafa, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the
sheet 20A)

Total Number of entries: 49 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil: 49 Inheritance

Library register number: S174

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 21 Recep 1204-5 Rabi al-Akhir 1205/06.04.1790-
12.12.1790

The sheets and the measure: 18 Sheets, 45:15.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 32 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 30 Inheritance

b: 1 *Huccet*

c: 1 *İlam*

Library register number: S184

The law court: Vidin

Date of the Register: 16 Safar 1257-Rabi al-Awwal 1259/09.04.1841-April 1843

The sheets and the measure: 28 Sheets, 47:17 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 685 entries in summary

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 495 *İlam*

b: 188 *Huccet*

c: 1 Inheritance

d: 1 *Ma'ruz*

Library register number: S269

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 13 Rabi al-Akhir 1134-25 Sha'ban 1135/31.01.1722-31.05.1723

The sheets and the measure: 94 Sheets, 45:18 cm

Condition of the Register: Some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Abdullah, (stamp on the sheet 57A)

2: Mustafa, Qadi, (sheet 65B)

Total Number of entries: 570 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 329 *Huccet*

b: 89 *Murasala*

c: 73 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

d: 62 *İlam*

e: 16 *Ma'ruz*

f: 1 *Waqf*

Library register number: S305

The law court: Vidin

Date of the Register: 1127-1133/1715-1721

The sheets and the measure: 48 Sheets, 43.5:15 cm

Condition of the Register: Some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Abdulwahhab bin Sheikh Ali, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 11A)
- 2: İbrahim, Qadi, (sheet 13B)
- 3: Shaban, Qadi, (sheet 14B)
- 3: Sadeddin Mehmet bin Salih, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 27B)

Total Number of entries: 205 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

- a: 105 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- b: 41 *Huccet*
- c: 33 *Murasala*
- d: 18 Inheritance
- e: 4 *İlam*
- f: 4 *Ma'ruz*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 14B: At the beginning of Dhulqa'da, for the year 1133/August 1721,

The service term of Shaban, the judge of Vidin, has been shortened by 3 months in accordance with a Firman and so he will be deposed after one month from the end of the next month. His position has been given to well-wisher Mevlana Sadeddin Mehmet, as he is written and recorded in our second term registry, and has the kind help of Sultan. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Safar of the next year (21.11.1721) for only 11 months, he should complete the remaining period [in Silistre]. Kürkçüzâde Sunullah, the judge of Silistre, will complete the remaining period and will have the disposal of [Silistre] for only ten months, *sadaka* is commended.

Library register number: S306

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: Dhulhijja 1137-Muharram 1139/August 1725-
August 1726

The sheets and the measure: 55 Sheets, 42:16 cm

Condition of the Register: Repaired

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Military judge of Rumili: Seyyid Abdullah, (sheet 54A)

Total Number of entries: 245 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

- a: 105 *Huccet*
- b: 88 *İlam*
- c: 32 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- d: 14 *Murasala*
- e: 4 *Inheritance*
- f: 2 *Waqf*

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 54A: To his Excellency, the eminent, the virtuous, the affectionate Effendi, [no name was recorded],

With the offering of prayers and glorious [greetings], this is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Sofya, which had been at our administration, have been transferred to your nobleness, from the beginning of Muharram al-Haram of this year 1139/29.08.1726. It is required that you pay careful attention to writing down the inheritance of the diseased soldiers in the aforesaid province, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. May your glory and eminence endure.

Sincerely, the poor, Seyyid Abdullah, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S307

The law court: Vidin

Date of the Register: 25 Ramadan 1183- Dhulqa'da 1185/22.01.1770-
February 1772

The sheets and the measure: 150 Sheets, 41.5:15 cm

Condition of the Register: Some entries of the last sheet are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Hacı Ömer Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 36B)

2: Fethullah Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 103B)

Military judge of Rumili: Salih Effendizâde Mehmet Emin, (sheet 103B)

Total Number of entries: 460 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 242 Inheritance

b: 105 *Huccet*

c: 71 *İlam*

d: 19 *Murasala*

e: 12 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

f: 9 *Ma'ruz*

g: 2 *Waqf*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 103B/2: In the month Rabi al-Akhir, for the year 1185/July 1771,

Hacı Ömer, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of the next month. His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Fethullah, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is from the honourable and reverend judges, and has the kind help of Sultan, and deserves the clemency of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Jumad al-Akhira of the aforementioned year (11.09.1771) for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 103B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Fethullah Effendi, the prosperous,

With the offering of many greetings, it is an official memorandum that

Hacı Ömer, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the end of Jumad al-Awwal of this year 1185/10.09.1771. His position has been given to you, as conferred in the past, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and are from the honourable and reverend judges, and have the kind help of Sultan and you deserve the clemency of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Jumad al-Akhira of the aforementioned year (11.09.1771), for the whole customary period, and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

From the poor, Salih Effendizâde Mehmet Emin,
Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 103B/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin, Fethullah Effendi, the prosperous,

With the offering of many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you by us, from the beginning of Jumad al-Akhira of this year 1185/11.09.1771. It is required that you pay full attention to writing down and marking the inheritance of the deceased soldiers in the aforesaid province, and to divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. With cordial greetings.

From the poor, Salih Effendizâde Mehmet Emin,
Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S308

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 7 Shawwal 1026-End of Sha'ban 1028/08.10.1617-
August 1619

The sheets and the measure: 22 Sheets, 41:15 cm

Condition of the Register: Some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs: Mehmet Sadık al-Ansâri, Qadi, Mufti, Inspector,
(sheet 22B)

Total Number of entries: 110 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

- a: 47 *Huccet*
- b: 31 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- c: 15 *Murasala*
- d: 14 *İlam*
- e: 3 *Inheritance*

Library register number: S309

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 4J (Shawwal) 1140-20 Jumadal-Ula 1141/14.05.1728-22.12.1728

The sheets and the measure: 47 Sheets, 40:15 cm

Condition of the Register: Repaired

The qadis and/or naibs: Nimetullah, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 26B)

Total Number of entries: 142 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 41 *Huccet*

b: 33 *İlam*

c: 30 *Murasala*

d: 21 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

e: 14 Inheritance

f: 2 *Ma'ruz*

g: 1 *Waqf*

Library register number: S309bis/1

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 22 Muharram 1144-29 Safar 1144/27.07.1731-02.09.1731

The sheets and the measure: 10 Sheets, 41:15 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 34 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 13 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

b: 12 *Huccet*

c: 9 *Murasala*

Library register number: S309bis/2

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 21 Jumad al-Akhira 1230-Jumad al-Akhira 1231/
31.05.1815-May 1816

The sheets and the measure: 20 Sheets, 42:16 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 55 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 52 Inheritance

b: 3 *Huccet*

Library register number: S309bis/3

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 15 Rabi al-Akhir 1231-17 Muharram 1232/
15.03.1816-07.12.1816

The sheets and the measure: 12 Sheets, 47:15.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 45 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 23 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

b: 15 *Murasala*

c: 6 *Huccet*

d: 1 *Waqf*

Library register number: S309bis/4²⁶¹

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 1 Muharram 1234-27 Safar 1235/31.10.1818-15.12.1819

The sheets and the measure: 52 Sheets, 47:16 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Seyyid Ali Effendizâde Seyyid Ahmet, Qadi (sheet 32B)

2: Ahmet Necip Effendi, Naib, (33A)

Military judge of Rumili: Seyyid Mustafa, (sheet 50A)

Total Number of entries: 121 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 52 Inheritance

b: 25 *Huccet*

c: 17 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

d: 13 *Murasala*

e: 10 *İlam*

f: 4 *Waqf*

In the following document, we see the second clerk being appointed as a naib. The document does not reveal why the second clerk, but not the first one was appointed as a naib.

Sheet 33A: The pride of the honourable professors, the virtuous, Mevlana, the second clerk (Müsevvid-i²⁶² sâni) Ahmet Necip Effendi, may your success endure,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that we have appointed you as a naib [to deal with the shari'a affairs of] the province of Sofya, which was conferred and granted and graced to this poor, by his kindness, the Sultan, to take over from the beginning of this year 1234/31.10.1818. It is required that you hear and settle, in accordance with

261 S309bis has 11 different registers bound together with a total of 125 sheets.

262 This refers to the clerks who write down the rough draft of the documents. Redhouse, *Dictionary*, p. 830.



the shari'a, the lawsuits between the contestants and brought [to the court], and write down and mark [the inheritance of] the diseased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia, and make a good effort to enforce [the judgments of] the exalted shari'a. You should not permit to deviate from the sound shari'a. With cordial greetings.

From the affectionate friends, Seyyid Ali Effendizâde Seyyid Ahmet,
judge in the province of Sofya.

In the following entry, we see the qadi being entitled to the division of inheritance. Since the qadi had a naib, the military judge asks the qadi to inform his naib of this new entitlement:

Sheet 50A: To the honourable law court of his Excellency, the prosperous, the virtuous, the honourable Effendi, to his honesty,

With full attention and with the offering of pure prayers and many greetings, our desire is that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Sofya, which had been in our responsibility in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred to your nobleness, from the beginning of Dhulqa'da Sharifa of this year 1234/22.08.1819. It is expected that you warn the well-wisher naib, whom you appointed, to pay full attention to writing down and to marking the inheritance of the deceased soldiers in the aforesaid province, and to divide and distribute among the inheritors in accordance with sharia.

Sincerely, Seyyid Mustafa, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S309bis/5²⁶³

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 7 Jumad al-Akhira 1234-Muharram 1249/03.04.1819-May 1833

The sheets and the measure: 5 Sheets, 50:17 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 17 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 10 Inheritance

b: 3 *Murasala*

c: 2 *Huccet*

d: 2 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

263 Two of the five sheets are dated 1234. The other three sheets are dated 1249. The catalogue identifies only the sheets dated 1234.

Library register number: S309bis/7

The law court: Cuma

Date of the Register: 1273/1856

The sheets and the measure: 16 Sheets, 50:18.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 175 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 118 *Huccet*

b: 31 *Ilam*

c: 26 Inheritance

Library register number: S309bis/11

The law court: Vidin

Date of the Register: 1256/1840

The sheets and the measure: 10 Sheets, 47.5:16 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 56 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 28 *Hucet*

b: 28 Inheritance

Library register number: S310

The law court: Vidin

Date of the Register: Dhulhijja 1190-20 Safar 1192/January 1777-20.03.1778

The sheets and the measure: 39 Sheets, 49.5:16.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Seyyid Ahmet Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 1B)

2: Hasan Effendi, Qadi (sheet 1B)

Military judge of Rumili: Seyyid İbrahim, (sheet 1B)

Total Number of entries: 132 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 51 Inheritance

b: 22 *Murasala*

c: 20 *Huccet*

d: 18 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

e: 12 *Ma'ruz*

f: 9 *İlam*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 1B/2: In Dhulhijja Sharifa, for the year [11]90/January 1777,

Seyyid Ahmet, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the next month.

His position has been given, as conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Hasan, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is from the honourable and reverend judges, and has the kind help of Sultan and deserves the reverence of the Crown. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Safar al-Khayr of the next year (11.03.1777) for only 14 months and completes the remaining customary period in another province, *sadaka* is commended.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 1B/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable judges, Mevlana Hasan Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Seyyid Ahmet,

the judge of Vidin, will be deposed from the beginning of Muharram al-Haram of this year 1191/09.02.1777. His position has been given to you, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and have the kind help of Sultan, and deserve the reverence of the Crown. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Safar al-Khayr of the aforementioned year (11.03.1777) for only 14 months, and make a good effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a, and complete the remaining customary period in another province. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid İbrahim, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 1B/4: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable judges, the judge of Vidin, Mevlana Hasan Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred to you by us, from the beginning of Safar al-Khayr of this year 1191/11.03.1777. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid İbrahim, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S311/1²⁶⁴

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 15 Jumad al-Ula 1162-28 Safar 1163/03.05.1749-06.02.1750

The sheets and the measure: 20 Sheets, 42:15.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Edirnevi Feyzullah, (served in Jumad al-Akhira 1162/1749)
- 2: Hacı Mehmet, Qadi, (signature on the sheet 20A)

Military judge of Rumili:

- 1: Mehmet Said, (sheet 1B)
- 2: Abdullah, (sheet 2A)

Total Number of entries: 58 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

- a: 21 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- b: 20 *Huccet*
- c: 16 *Murasala*
- d: 1 Inheritance

Entitlement to the division of inheritance for one month between 19.05.1749-20.06.1749:

Sheet 1B/2: To the abode of virtuousness, the just [law court] of his Excellency, the virtuous, the affectionate Effendi, [the addressee was not recorded],

With the offering of prayers and greetings, our affection/desire is that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Sofya, which was granted [to you] by his kindness, the exalted Sultan to take over from Jumad al-Akhira of this year [11]62/19.05.1749 have been transferred and handed over to your honourable majesty by us. It is expected that you make a good effort to write down and to mark division of inheritance of the diseased soldiers, from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia.

From the sincere friends, Mehmet Said, Military judge of Rumili.

²⁶⁴ This volume has 10 different registers bound together.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 2A/1: To the exalted just law court of his Excellency, the felicitous, the virtuous, Effendi, [the addressee was not recorded],

With [the offering of] prayers and the honourable greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Sofya, which had been presently at our disposal, have been transferred to you from the 4th day of Recep al-Fard of this year 1162/20.06.1749. It is expected that you do your best to write down and mark the inheritance of the diseased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia, and protect and support the destitute orphans of the Muslims.

Sincerely, Abdullah, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S311/2

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 14 Recep 1164-22 Dhulhijja 1164/08.06.1751-
11.11.1751

The sheets and the measure: 6 Sheets, 42:15 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: Mehmet bin Ali el-Edirnevi, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 6A)

Total Number of entries: 11 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 6 Inheritance

b: 2 *İlam*

c: 2 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

d: 1 *Huccet*

Library register number: S311/3

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 1170/1756

The sheets and the measure: 10 Sheets, 40:15 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 2 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil: 2 *Waqf*

Library register number: S311/4

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 28 Muharram 1182-12 Dhulqa'da 1182/14.06.1768-
20.03.1769

The sheets and the measure: 5 Sheets, 43:15.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 7 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 5 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

b: 1 *Huccet*

c: 1 *Murasala*

Library register number: S311/5

The law court: Vidin/Sofya

Date of the Register: 1201-1205/1787-1791

The sheets and the measure: 11 Sheets,²⁶⁵ 45:16 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Mustafa Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 1B)
- 2: Mehmet Rashid, Naib, (sheet 1B)
- 3: Abdulgani, Qadi, (sheet 1B)
- 4: Hacı Abdullah, Qadi, (sheet 1B)
- 3: Mehmet Shakir, Qadi, Sofya law court, (signature and stamp on the sheet 11B)

Military judge of Rumili: Seyyid Yahya Tevfik, (sheet 1B)

Total Number of entries: 34 entries (law court of Vidin)

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

- a: 10 Inheritance
- b: 9 *Murasala*
- c: 8 *Huccet*
- d: 5 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- e: 2 *İlam*

Petition for the judiciary post:

Sheet 1B/2: Shab'an al-Mu'azzam, for the year 1201/May 1787,

Abdulgani, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed after two months from the end of the next month. His position has been given, [as] conferred in the past, to well-wisher Mevlana Mustafa, as he is recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and is from the honourable judges, and deserves the clemency of the Ruler of the World. After submission of his petition that he has the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of the aforementioned year (14.09.1787) for the whole customary period, *sadaka* is commended.

265 While the first 10 sheets belong to the Vidin law court, the last sheet belongs to the Sofia law court headed by the qadi Mehmet Shakir Effendi. This last sheet records only the distribution of flour.

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 1B/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable judges Mustafa Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Abddulgani, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed after two months from the end of Ramadan al-Mubarak of this year 1201/16.07.1787. His position has been given to you, as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and as you have the kind help of Sultan and deserve the clemency of the Ruler of the World. It is required that you have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of the aforementioned year (14.09.1787) for the whole customary period, and enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Yahya Tevfik, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 2A: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the honourable and the reverend judges, the judge of Vidin, Mustafa Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you from the beginning of the month Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1201/14.09.1787. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Yahya Tevfik, Military judge of Rumili.

Appointment of a naib called Mehmet Rashid Effendi by the qadi named Hacı Abdullah for a period of 25 day between 20.08.1787-14.09.1787:

Sheet 2A: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mehmet Rashid Effendi, the prosperous,

After greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a affairs of the province of Vidin, which had been at my disposal in accordance with

an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us, from the 6th day of the month Dhulqa'da of this year 1201/20.08.1787. It is required that you enforce the judgments of the shari'a in the aforesaid province, and write down inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted justice/right (*hak*). With cordial greetings.

From the affectionate and sincere friends, Hacı Abdullah,
judge in the protected Vidin.

The aforesaid naib Mehmet Rashid Effendi was also appointed as a naib by the newly appointed qadi. In other words, his service period was extended by the new qadi:

Sheet 1B/4: His Excellency, the measure of law, the pride of the judges, Mevlana Mehmet Rashid Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a [affairs] of the province of Vidin, which had been at our disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us, from the beginning of the month Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1201/14.09.1787. It is required that you, as deputy [judge], have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the aforementioned [month], and enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down and mark the inheritance of the [deceased] soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the share which Allah prescribed. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a Ahmediyye. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mustafa, judge in the province of Vidin.

Library register number: S311/6

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 23 Dhulqa'da 1206-25 Dhulhijja 1206/13.07.1792-
01.08.1792

The sheets and the measure: 26 Sheets, 45:16 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 64 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 32 Inheritance

b: 22 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

c: 9 *Murasala*

d: 1 *Huccet*

Library register number: S311/7

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 1205/1791

The sheets and the measure: 22 Sheets, 49:17 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: Mehmet Emin İshakzâde, Qadi, (sheet 22A)

Total Number of entries: 54 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 21 Inheritance

b: 17 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

c: 8 *Huccet*

d: 8 *Murasala*

Library register number: S311/8

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 13 Dhulqa'da 1222-20 Rabi al-Awwal 1223/
12.01.1808-16.05.1808.

The sheets and the measure: 4 Sheets, 34:15.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: Mufti of Maraş Mehmet Sadık Effendizâde
Mehmet Hilmi, Qadi, (signature and stamp on the sheet 2A)

Total Number of entries: 4 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 2 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

b: 1 Inheritance

c: 1 *Murasala*

Library register number: S311/9

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 1214/1799

The sheets and the measure: 8 Sheets, 34:15 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: Mehmet Emin İshakzâde, Qadi, (sheet 2B)

Total Number of entries: 31 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 14 *Murasala*

b: 8 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

c: 6 *Huccet*

d: 3 Inheritance

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 3A: His Excellency, the virtuous, the affectionate Effendi, with the offering of many prayers and many purified salutations; our affection/desire is that since the Rumili sadâreti (office and the functions of military judge of Rumili) was granted to us by his kindness, the exalted Sultan and the exalted renowned King, from the beginning of Recep al-Fard of this year 1214/29.11.1799, the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province of Sofya, which is at your administration, have been transferred and handed over to your virtuous majesty from the beginning of the aforementioned [month]. I sincerely expect that you warn the qassams (inheritance dividers) to pay full attention and make full effort to write down and to mark the inheritance of the diseased soldiers, in the aforesaid province, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the share which the powerful and wise Allah prescribed. May your honour endure. From the affectionate friends, İbrahim İsmet, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S311/10

The law court: Vidin

Date of the Register: 1230/1814

The sheets and the measure: 24 Sheets, 46.5:16.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Some entries are illegible.

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Abdulmuiyn, Naib, (signature and stamp on the sheet 5A)

2: Mehmet Effendi, Naib, (sheet 8B)

Total Number of entries: 48 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 15 *Huccet*

b: 14 Inheritance

c: 10 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

d: 5 *Murasala*

e: 2 *İlam*

f: 1 *Ma'ruz*

g: 1 *Waqf*

Library register number: S_{312/1}²⁶⁶

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: Recep 1133-13 ج (Jumad al-Awwal) 1134/May
1721-01.03.1722

The sheets and the measure: 38 Sheets, 42:16 cm

Condition of the Register: Some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 137 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 78 *Huccet*

b: 33 *İlam*

c: 21 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

d: 5 *Murasala*

266 This volume has 9 different registers which were bound together.

Library register number: S312/2

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: Recep 1139-Ramadan 1139/February 1727-April 1727

The sheets and the measure: 10 Sheets, 43:15 cm

Condition of the Register: Some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 46 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 35 *Huccet*

b: 10 *İlam*

c: 1 Inheritance

Library register number: S312/3

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 5 Sha'ban 1143-20 Rabi al-Awwal 1144/13.02.1731-
22.09.1731

The sheets and the measure: 24 Sheets, 41:15 cm

Condition of the Register: Some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 138 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 65 *Huccet*

b: 40 *İlam*

c: 32 Inheritance

d: 1 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

Library register number: S312/4

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 29 Shawwal 1150-Muharram 1151/19.02.1738-April 1738

The sheets and the measure: 10 Sheets, 43:15.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: Seyyid Mustafa, Qadi, (sheet, 6B)

Total Number of entries: 33 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 20 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

b: 9 *Murasala*

c: 4 *Huccet*

Extension of the service period of the naib:

Sheet 6B/2: To the honourable and the just law court,

With the offering of appropriate greetings, it is that you are retained [as deputy judge] in the province of Sofya, which had been at our disposal, until you resign due to the fact that your service has been accepted as you are very careful and attentive in your duty of enforcing the judgments of the shari'a. It is expected that you, as in the past, make an effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a and put the high commandments into effect. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Seyyid Mustafa,
Arrived to us on 12 Dhulhijja 1150/02.04.1738.

Library register number: S312/5

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 25 Rabi al-Akhir 1152-15 Ramadan 1152/01.8.1739-16.12.1739

The sheets and the measure: 10 Sheets, 41:15 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 34 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 13 Inheritance

b: 10 *Huccet*

c: 10 *Ilam*

d: 1 *Murasala*

Library register number: S312/6

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 1156/1743

The sheets and the measure: 4 Sheets, 43:16 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Seyyid Ömer, Qadi, (sheet 2B)
- 2: Süleyman Effendi, Naib, (sheet 2B)
- 3: Seyyid Mustafa, Qadi, (sheet 2B)
- 4: Ahmet Şitasizâde, (signature and stamp on the sheet 2B)

Total Number of entries: 16 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

- a: 7 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- b: 6 *Huccet*
- c: 2 *Murasala*
- d: 1 *Ma'ruz*

Qadi appoints his son as his naib on the basis of his health conditions:

Sheet 2B/2: His Excellency, the honourable, the virtuous, my son Süleyman Effendi,

After brilliant greetings, it is an official memorandum that [the shari'a affairs of] the province of Sofya was granted to this humble [man], to take over from the beginning of the month Rabi al-Ula of this year 1156/25.04.1743. Since we are incapable of administration because of our state of health, the deputyship [of the shari'a affairs] was transferred to your majesty by us with a permission of his Excellency, the Sultan. It is expected and requested that you enforce the judgments of the shari'a in the aforesaid province among the inhabitants. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted shari'a. May your prosperity and glory endure.

The poor, Seyyid Ömer, the judge in the province of Sofya.

A short letter about the appointment of a naib:

Sheet 2B/3: You do your best to assume, as deputy judge, [the shari'a affairs] of the aforesaid province, and enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants.

The poor, Seyyid Mustafa, may God forgive him.

Library register number: S312/7

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 10 Jumad al-Akhira 1157-3 Dhulqa'da 1158/
21.07.1744-27.11.1745

The sheets and the measure: 18 Sheets, 44.5:16.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 60 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 25 *Huccet*

b: 21 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

c: 13 *Murasala*

d: 1 *Inheritance*

Library register number: S312/8

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 1158-1160/1745-1747

The sheets and the measure: 39 Sheets, 43.5:15.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Methizâde Abdurrahman Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 3B)
- 2: Seyyid Ahmet Chalabi b. Mehmet, Naib, (sheet 3B)
- 3: Mustafa Effendi, Qadi, (sheet, 20A)
- 4: Mufti zâde Ahmet Effendi, Qadi, (sheet, 20A)

Military judge of Rumili:

- 1: Abdurrahman, (sheet 3B)
- 2: Ahmet Piri, (sheet 20A)

Total Number of entries: 99 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

- a: 44 *Huccet*
- b: 27 *Hatt-ı Humayun*
- c: 20 *Murasala*
- d: 4 *İlam*
- e: 3 *Inheritance*
- f: 1 *Ma'ruz*

Entitlement to the division of inheritance by the military judge:

Sheet 3B/4: To the high honourable, just and prestigious law court of his Excellency, the virtuous, the honourable, the affectionate Effendi,

With the offering of pure prayers and many salutations; our desire is that the [shari'a affairs of] the province of Sofya was conferred to [you] by the exalted State, may last forever, by his kindness, the exalted Sultan, to take over from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1158/25.12.1745. The affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army have also been transferred and handed over to your excellence. It is expected that you pay attention to hearing the cases related to the writing and the division of heritage of soldiers in accordance with the shari'a. May your virtuousness endure.

From the affectionate friends, Abdurrahman, Military judge of Rumili.

Appointment of a naib by the qadi:

Sheet 3B/3: His Excellency, the pride of the judges, Seyyid Ahmet Chalabi, the esteemed,

After brilliant greetings, our desire is that the shari'a affairs of the province of Sofya, which were granted to this poor by his kindness, the exalted Sultan to take over from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1158/25.12.1745, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty as a naib by us. It is required that you go to the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and make an effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants, and write down the inheritance of the deceased soldiers and of local people, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. You should not permit to deviate from [the shari'a].

From the poor, Medhi zâde Abdurrahman,
judge in the province of Sofya.

In the following document, we see the naib being entitled to serve further although the qadi, who presumably had appointed him, died:

Sheet 20A/2: His Excellency, the naib of Sofya, Mustafa Effendi,

After greetings, it is an official memorandum that [since] the judge of Sofya, Muftizâde Ahmet Effendi has left this temporary world with the command of Allah, you retained [in the aforesaid province] for [another] six months on the basis of mercy to the slaves of Allah who live in the aforesaid province. It is required that you, as the deputy judge, make an effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a and to put the high commandments into practice. [This was] written in Dhulhijja Sharifa 1160/December 1747.

The poor, Seyyid Mehmet, judge in the province of Sofya.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 20A/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Mustafa Effendi,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the province Sofya have been

transferred and handed over to you by us, from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1160/04.12.1747. It is required that you write down and mark inheritance of the deceased soldiers, which takes place in the aforesaid province, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the share which Allah prescribed. With cordial greetings.

From the poor, Ahmet Piri, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S312/9

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 16 Recep 1169-6 Rabi al-Akhir 1170/16.04.1756-
29.12.1756

The sheets and the measure: 10 Sheets, 41:15.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 25 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 20 Inheritance

b: 4 *Huccet*

c: 1 *İlam*

Library register number: S343

The law court: Vidin

Date of the Register: 27 Sha'ban 1282-2 Ramadan 1285/15.01.1866-
17.12.1868

The sheets and the measure: 38 Sheets

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 38 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil: 38 Inheritance

Library register number: S344

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: 957/1550

The sheets and the measure: 10 Sheets, 39.4:15.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 80 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 41 *Huccet*

b: 38 *İlam*

c: 1 *Murasala*

Library register number: S345

The law court: Vidin

Date of the Register: 7 Ramadan 1107-12 Dhulqa'da 1108/10.04.1696-02.06.1697

The sheets and the measure: 4 Sheets, 41.3:13.7 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 14 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 7 Inheritance

b: 4 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

c: 2 *Murasala*

d: 1 *İlam*

Library register number: S346

The law court: Vidin

Date of the Register: 1173/1759

The sheets and the measure: 4 Sheets, 41.7:15.3 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Mahmut, Qadi, (sheet 1B)

2: Hacı Osman Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 1B)

Military judge of Rumili: Sheikh Mehmet Said, (sheet 1B)

Total Number of entries: 51 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 22 *Huccet*

b: 18 Inheritance

c: 6 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

d: 2 *İlam*

e: 2 *Murasala*

f: 1 *Waqf*

Buyruldu of the military judge:

Sheet 1B/2: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Hacı Osman Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that Mahmut, the judge of Vidin, will be deposed after one month from the end of Rabi al-Akhir of this year 1173/20.12.1759. His position has been given [to you], from the beginning of Jumad al-Akhira of the aforementioned year (20.01.1760), as you are recorded in the registry of the former military judge, and have the kind help of Sultan, and are from the honourable and reverend judges. You should have the disposal of [the shari'a affairs of the aforesaid province] for the whole customary period, and make an effort to enforce the judgments of the shari'a among the inhabitants. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Sheikh Mehmet Said, Military judge of Rumili.

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 1B/3: His Excellency, the measure of law, the judge of Vidin,

Mevlana Hacı Osman Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the aforesaid province have been transferred and handed over to you by us, from the beginning of Jumad al-Akhira of this year 1173/20.01.1760. It is required that you write down and mark the inheritance of the deceased soldiers in the aforesaid province, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with the share which Allah prescribed. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Sheikh Mehmet Said, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: S347

The law court: Sofya

Date of the Register: Rabi al-Awwal 1192-15 Safar 1193/March 1778-04.03.1779

The sheets and the measure: 21 Sheets, 41.7:18.8 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs:

1: Hacı Mustafa Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 1A)

2: Hacı Mehmet Emin, Naib, (sheet 1A)

Military judge of Rumili: Damadzâde Mehmet, (sheet 1A)

Total Number of entries: 50 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

a: 28 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

b: 11 *Huccet*

c: 11 *Murasala*

Entitlement to the division of inheritance:

Sheet 1A/3: To the felicitous, the honourable law court and felicitous just assembly of his Excellency, the virtuous Effendi,

With the offering of appropriate greetings and brilliant salutations, our desire is that the affairs of the division [of inheritance] of the army of the city, province Sofya, which is at your disposal, have been transferred and handed over to your virtuous majesty by us, from the beginning of the month Rabi al-Ula of this year 1192/30.03.1778. It is expected that with the bestowing of his Excellent honour (Allah), you write down and mark the inheritance of the diseased soldiers in the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. May your excellent virtuousness endure.

The poor, Damadzâde Mehmet, Military judge of Rumili.

Appointment of a naib by the qadi:

Sheet 1A/4: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana Hacı Mehmet Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the shari'a

affairs of the law court of the province of Sofya, which had been at our disposal in accordance with an appointment, have been transferred and handed over to your majesty by us, from the beginning of Rabi al-Ula of this year 1192/30.03.1778. It is required that you hear the shari'a cases which are brought to the aforesaid law court, from the beginning of the aforementioned [month]. You should not permit to deviate from the exalted sound shari'a. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Hacı Mustafa, presently judge in the province of Sofya.

Library register number: S348

The law court: Ahtapolu

Date of the Register: 1312-1316/1894-1898

The sheets and the measure: 78 Sheets, (these are the copies of the original registers)

Condition of the Register: Some entries are illegible.

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Mehmet Kemal Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 2A)
- 2: Mehmet Shawki Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 39A)
- 3: Fahreddin, Qadi, (sheet 56A)

Military judge of Rumili: Dürriizâde Seyyid Mehmet Dürri, (sheet 39A)

Total Number of entries: 181 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

- a: 114 *Huccet*
- b: 34 *İlam*
- c: 20 Inheritance
- d: 8 *Murasala*
- e: 5 illegible

According to the following *buyruldu* of the military judge, Mehmet Shawki Effendi was appointed as a qadi. He presumably served between 15.10.1895-14.05.1896:

Sheet 39A/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, the honourable naib of Yanko, Mehmet Shawki Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the judgments of the shari'a of the province of Ahtapolu, located within [the boundaries of] Edirne province have been transferred and handed over to your brilliant responsibility on the ground of opinion and approval of his illustrious Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi [which was based] upon a statement issued by the assembly of selection of the judges, and on the basis of our general authority, from the 25th day of Rabi al-Akhir of this year 1313/15.10.1895. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the aforementioned day, and make an effort to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the

inhabitants, and pay careful attention to writing down and to marking the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and to dividing and to distributing it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Dürri-zâde Mehmet Dürri, Military judge of Rumili.

In the following *buyruldu*, we see Mehmet Kemal Effendi being appointed as a qadi. He presumably served between 14.05.1896-03.02.1897:

Sheet 2A/1: His virtuousness, the measure of law, the naib of Tartu, the virtuous Şerif Mehmet Kemal Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the judgments of the shari'a of the province of Ahtapolu, located within [the boundaries of] Edirne province have been transferred and handed over to your judicious responsibility on the ground of opinion and approval of his illustrious Excellency the Sultan (Fetvâ Penâhi) which was based upon a statement issued by the assembly of selection of the judges and on the basis of our general authority, from the beginning of Dhulhijja Sharifa of this year 1313/14.05.1896. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned [month], and make an effort and persevere to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and pay careful attention to writing down and to marking the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and divide and distribute it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Dürri-zâde, Military judge of Rumili.

The following *buyruldu* indicates that Fahreddin Effendi was appointed as a qadi.

Sheet 56A/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, the naib of Belom, the felicitous, the honourable Fahreddin Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the affairs of the judgments of the shari'a of the province of Ahtapolu, located within the boundaries of Edirne province have been transferred and handed over to your brilliant responsibility on the ground of opinion of his illustrious Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi which was based upon a statement issued by the

assembly of selection of the judges and on the basis of our general authority, from the beginning of Ramadan al-Mubarak of this year 1314/03.02.1897. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the beginning of the aforementioned month, and make an effort and persevere to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and pay careful attention to writing down and to marking the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and to dividing and to distributing it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Dürriizâde Seyyid Mehmet Dürri, Military judge of Rumili

Library register number: D361

The law court: Şumnu

Date of the Register: 1286-1288/1869-1871

The sheets and the measure: 93 Sheets, 48:18.5 cm

Condition of the Register: Some entries are illegible

The qadis and/or naibs:

- 1: Hacı Hasan Sadreddin Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 1B)
- 2: Hüseyin Effendi zâde Ahmet Halit el-Hüsni, Naib, (sheet 48A)
- 3: Ahmet Hamdi Effendi, Qadi, (sheet 69B)

Military judge of Rumili:

- 1: Mehmet Azizzâde, (sheet 1B)
- 2: Seyyid Hacı Mustafa İzzi, (sheet 69B)

Total Number of entries: 459 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil:

- a: 225 Inheritance
- b: 143 *Huccet*
- c: 39 *Ma'ruz*
- d: 35 *İlam*
- e: 11 *Murasala*
- f: 5 *Waqf*
- g: 1 *Hatt-ı Humayun*

According to the following *buyruldu* of the military judge, Hacı Hasan Sadreddin Effendi was appointed as a qadi. He presumably served between 17.05.1869-01.07.1870:

Sheet 1B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, Mevlana from the senior professors Hacı Hasan Sadreddin Effendi, may your success endure,

[Illegible], [it is an official memorandum that] the shari'a affairs of the province of Şumnu located within [the boundaries of] Tuna province, have been transferred and handed over to your honourable majesty by us, on the ground of preference and selection command of his Excellency Fetvâ Penâhi, and on the basis of our general authority, from the 5th day of Safar al-Khayr of this year 1286/17.05.1869. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province, from the

aforementioned day, and that you make an effort and persevere to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and pay careful attention to writing down and marking the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and to dividing and to distributing it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. With cordial greetings.

The poor, Mehmet Azizzâde, Military judge of Rumili.

The following *buyruldu* indicates that Ahmet Hamdi Effendi was appointed as a qadi.

Sheet 69B/1: His Excellency, the measure of law, from the senior professors, Mevlana Ahmet Hamdi Effendi, the prosperous,

After many greetings, it is an official memorandum that the deputyship of the shari'a [affairs] of the province of Şumnu located within [the boundaries of] Tuna province, has been transferred and handed over to your honourable majesty by us, on the ground of preference and selection command of his Excellency the Sultan Fetvâ Penâhi, and on the basis of our general authority, from the beginning of Rabi al-Akhir of this year 1287/01.07.1870. It is required that you, as deputy judge, assume [the shari'a affairs of] the aforesaid province from the aforementioned [month], and make an effort and persevere to enforce the judgments of the exalted shari'a among the inhabitants, and pay careful attention to writing down and marking the inheritance of the deceased soldiers, and to dividing and to distributing it among the inheritors in accordance with sharia. With cordial greetings.

Seyyid Hacı Mustafa İzzi, Military judge of Rumili.

Library register number: D648

The law court: Vidin

Date of the Register: 1169, 1177, 1188/1755, 1763, 1774

The sheets and the measure: 9 written sheets, 48:17 cm

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

Total Number of entries: 59 entries

Breakdown of the content of sicil: 59 *Waqf*

Library register number: D497

The law court: Ruscuk

Date of the Register: Rumi 1297/1881

The sheets and the measure: 27 Sheets

Condition of the Register: Good

The qadis and/or naibs: No name was recorded

In this register, the income of the court between June 1297/June 1881 and October 1300/October 1884 was recorded. It is noted that this is a register which records the income of the Ruscuk law court from the beginning of June of the Rumi²⁶⁷ year [12]97/June 1881.

267 It is to be noted here that the *Rumi* calendar which is based on the Julian calendar was the official calendar of the Ottoman Empire from 1255/1839 onwards. <http://www.ottomanlanguage.com/sayi.htm>.

Conclusion

This study has shown that the registers held in the national library of Bulgaria are generally in pretty good condition. However, some require repairing and rebinding. This study has also indicated that the procedure of the appointment of the judges changed over time. It generally started with the petition of the prospective judge. Upon its approval by the Sultan, the military judge issued an *inha*, bringing the procedure of appointment to an end. From the 19th century onwards, we see dual authority in the appointment of the qadis. In other words, both the Sheikh al-Islams and the military judges played a role in their appointment. Likewise, although the naibs were appointed by the qadis themselves until the 19th century, from which date onwards, the Sheikh al-Islams played a significant role in their appointment.

Our documents also show that most of the qadis did not serve themselves in the court, rather they sent a naib on their behalf. It has also been seen that the division of inheritance of *askeri* class was carried out by the qadis or their deputies and that special qassams were employed in some important cases.

This study has also established as a fact that some qadis appointed their close relatives as naibs and that the ones who were serving in the educational (muderris/professors) establishments and in the religious (mufti) departments also served in the judiciary.

The examination of the registers also indicate that the service periods for the judges were generally between twenty months and two years. However, the service period of the naibs ranged from a few days to the whole period of the qadi.

In the appointment decrees of the judges, a technical legal term '*sadaka*'

(grant) was used in order to indicate that the qadi was serving on behalf of the Sultan and that the appointment was a kind of charity granted by the Sultan. The registers have also indicated that the serving qadi was named *mutasarrıf* and that the one who held the title without serving in the court was simply called 'qadi'. The naibs identified themselves as '*Müvellâ hilâfeten*/appointed as substitute or *müvellâ*/appointed'. The form of addressing between the military judge and the qadi or between the qadi and his naib depended on the closeness of their relationship.

This study has also indicated that the shari'a courts lost their power during the independence period of Bulgaria. With the enactment of a regulation on 2 July 1880, the shari'a courts lost their independence and were incorporated into the the Mufti's office. The Muftis were entitled to adjudicate for only limited legal problems of Muslims. Family issues constituted the major work load of the Shari'a courts at this period.

The temporary regulations issued in 1880 and in 1895 by the Bulgarian principality and the İstanbul agreement between Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire dated 1913 and the regulation issued in 1919 by the independent Bulgarian State played a major role in the restructuring and the administration of the shari'a courts. Although they were abolished in 1924 in Turkey, they continued until 1945 in Bulgaria.

The registers contain a variety of cases. The one who wants to know more about the legal, social, economic history of the Ottoman Empire and its international relations may also wish to study the registers in minute details. We hope this study contributes to our understating of the appointment procedure of the judges in the Ottoman Empire and sheds light on the contents of the registers held in the National library of Bulgaria.

Appendix 1

The names of the cities and provinces used in the study in their Turkish and Bulgarian versions:

Akkirman	Akkerman (Odessa/Ukraine)
Ahtapolu	Achtopol
Aydos	Aitos
Balçık	Balcik
Balpınar	Kubrat (Razgrad)
Burgaz	Burgas
Dobriç	Dobrich
Eski Cuma	Targovishte
Eski zağra	St. Zagora
Filibe	Plovdiv
Hacıoğlupazarı	Tolbuhin (Dobrich)
Hasköy	Haskova
Hezargrad	Razgrad
İslimiye	Sliven
Karlıova	Karlova
Kızanlık	St. Zagora
Kurtpınar	Tervel
Lofça	Lofcha
Niğbolu	Nikopol
Osman Pazarı	Omortag
Peştera	Peshtera
Plevne	Pleven
Praslav	Presleva

Pravadi	Provadiya
Rahova	Rahova
Ruscuk	Ruse
Selvi	Sevlievo
Silistre	Silistra
Sofya	Sofia
Şumnu	Shumen
Tamişvar	Timishoara
Tartu	Tartu (Dorpat)
Tatarpazarcık	Pazardzhik
Tutragan	Toutrakan
Tirnova	Veliko Tirnova
Varna	Varna
Vidin	Vidin
Virace	Virage?
Yanbolu	Yambol
Yeni Pazar	Novi Pazar
Yenice-i Vardar	Vardar
Ziştovi	Svishtov

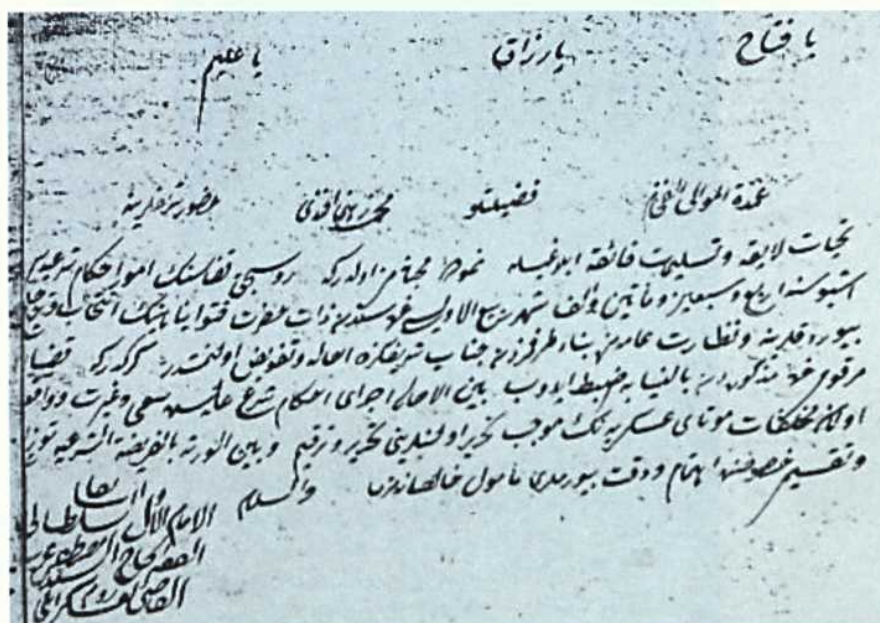
Appendix 2

The original document indicating the appointment of a qadi. (R50, sheet 2A)



Appendix 3

The original document indicating the appointment of Mehmet Zihni Effendi. (R26, sheet 100B)



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